

**PAIN OR GAIN...
DOES ALTERNATIVE
MEDICINE WORK?**

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**PRETTY VACANT
THE WARHOL
MYTH EXPLODED**

THE EYE

**DREAM MERCHANT
MAKING MILLIONS
FROM LARA CROFT**

NETWORK+

THE INDEPENDENT

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Teachers and nurses win big bonuses

By Anthony Bevins
and Diane Coyle

TOP-PERFORMING teachers and nurses could get pay increases nearly double the norm next year in a move that overturns existing public-sector pay scales.

The move is aimed at rewarding those such as career nurses and teachers working in demanding conditions in the inner cities. Heads who have turned around failing schools are

also likely candidates. The plans, likely to be implemented from next spring, could see such individuals getting rises of about 4-5 per cent compared with the 2-3 per cent at which public-sector pay deals have been allowed to run. This is likely to cause anger among unions reluctant to see national scales changed.

The Treasury's comprehensive spending review due next month recognises that a public-sector pay catch-up is inevitable now private-sector wage growth

has pulled so far ahead. But with big rises across the board out of the question because of limits on public expenditure, higher settlements will be concentrated on front-line staff who take on additional responsibilities.

However, Treasury officials are seriously concerned that earnings in the private sector might be pulling far enough ahead to torpedo the Chancellor's attempt to balance tough overall spending control with pay awards for key departments.

This uncertainty means it is not yet clear how many front-line staff will enjoy the bigger increases. Nor are details of how these will be implemented likely to emerge until after next month's announcement of the broad outlines. Also, in Whitehall's existing "performance pay" scheme for top-flight civil servants, individual awards remain confidential, to avoid exciting the jealousy of colleagues.

Latest figures show that private-sector earnings are rising

twice as fast as those in the public sector. In the 12 months to March, average private-sector pay rose by 6 per cent compared with just under 3 per cent for public-sector employees.

The Chancellor will use the announcement to make clear his rules for prudent public finances: a commitment to a small surplus of revenues over spending for the next three financial years, consistent with the "golden rule" that the Government's borrowing must not

exceed its investment spending.

Confirmation by the Prime Minister's spokesman that the "Iron Chancellor" would maintain his disciplined line on spending, borrowing and debt repayment through to the next election prompted protests from unions and Liberal Democrats.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of the public services union Unison, said: "We were given the clear impression that for two years, and two years only, the straitjacket of the last Gov-

ernment's public spending limits would be followed.

"This year public-service pay increased by only 2.6 per cent compared to 5.6 per cent in private companies. They don't want massive pay levels or huge numbers of extra jobs created for the sake of it. They want a decent day's pay for a decent day's work and the means to be able to carry on providing quality services to the public."

Mr Blair's spokesman dismissed a Liberal Democrat

charge that the Chancellor was building a £50bn war chest to finance a spending spree in advance of the next election.

But David Laws, the Liberal Democrats' economics adviser, said: "This seems like fiscal flagellation, bringing us surpluses for the sake of it." He said that if Mr Brown got his plans wrong, Labour's reputation for caring public services could be irreparably damaged. "This seems to be... an obsession with prudence at any price."

Widdecombe leads return of the Tories' old guard

By Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

ANN WIDDECOMBE was yesterday promoted to the Shadow Cabinet by William Hague with the brief of putting some bite into the opposition attack and bringing the Tories back in touch with ordinary people.

In a wide-ranging reshuffle, which consolidated the hold of the Euro-sceptic right, the Tory leader gave Peter Lilley the rank of deputy leader with the task of producing a hard-hitting right-of-centre manifesto for the next election.

His former shadow Chancellor post was taken by Eurosceptic Francis Maude, while Brian Mawhinney, the shadow Home Secretary, and Stephen Dorrell, the education spokesman, voluntarily bowed

Miss Widdecombe, a former Tory minister who was once nicknamed the Doris Karloff of the Tory Party, has learnt to

live with tabloid jibes, but Mr Hague is counting on her ability to speak for the gut instincts of the grass roots of the Tory Party to revive his party's hopes in the opinion polls.

Speaking to *The Independent*, she made it plain she does not intend to tone down her anti-abortion views as shadow health secretary.

She said she will be focusing on attacking Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, on rising record waiting lists - and will be starting today at Question Time in the Commons.

But she will be driving much more of a moral crusade in health than her predecessor John Major. "My personal stand will not be in any way diminished. The party itself has always regarded it as a matter for a free vote; as a matter of conscience. But my personal views are not for changing."

Teenage pregnancies - also at record levels - are a moral and social issue, she believes. "We need to be much more

fundamental in putting things in a moral context and saying there really are a lot of consequences to having children so young; not least is the lost youth of the individual."

One of the first calls to Miss Widdecombe's office after the news broke of her appointment was from the *Catholic Herald*. She converted to Catholicism in protest at the ordination of women in the Church of England, and is a committed opponent of abortion.

Labour sources said last night that her robust views on abortion and capital punishment, which have made her a regular on panel shows such as BBC *Question Time*, would rebound on the Tories. Miss Widdecombe said she wanted to attack Labour failures. "I don't want headlines about Widdecombe and abortion," she said.

In the past, Miss Widdecombe's main victim has been on her own side - she sabotaged the leadership ambitions of



Ann Widdecombe: "Suddenly my waist wobbled. It was the pager saying ring the leader's office"

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Michael Howard with a devastating assault in the Commons, in which she described her former boss as having "something of the night about him".

Was she changing her views about Mr Howard? "That was last year," she said.

She was leaving the memorial service for Mother Teresa

of Calcutta on Sunday night when her pager went off. "Suddenly my waist wobbled. It was the pager saying ring the leader's office."

She politely told Mr Hague that she was due to give awards out to the blind, and arranged to meet him at 8.30am yesterday. She was offered health, and

she took it with both hands.

"He gave me the brief and said he wanted to make sure that we got over Tory policies; that we showed up the holes in Labour policy; that we listened and thought and came up with ideas for next time."

Sharp right turn, page 10
Leading article, page 20

Fizzy drinks destroyed in benzene scare

By Glenda Cooper
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

MILLIONS of fizzy drink cans and bottles of sparkling mineral water were swept off supermarket shelves yesterday after high levels of cancer-causing chemicals were found in certain brands.

Well-known brands such as Coca Cola, Tango and Pepsi were pulled after traces of the carcinogen benzene was found in carbon dioxide supplies. Bottles of sparkling Malvern min-

eral water made by Coca Cola, Schweppes, and Brecon Carreg sparkling water sold both as an individual brand and as an own-label water in supermarkets, were also removed.

Other companies were awaiting tests to see if their products would also be positive.

The scare was sparked on Friday after some samples of water were found to contain up to 20 parts of benzene in 1 million, twice the World Health Organisation guidelines.

Experts stressed there was

virtually no health risk attached to drinking the polluted drink but companies said they were taking the issue seriously in the interests of customer confidence.

Benzene is a man-made chemical known to be highly dangerous and at the same time ubiquitous in the environment. In 1990 Perrier withdrew 160 million bottles after finding traces of benzene at up to 22 parts per billion in 13 bottles.

It is thought the scare will cost the industry between £1m

and £3m. The Perrier scare cost that company \$150m. A British Soft Drink Association spokeswoman said it was "too early to tell" the complete cost.

The contamination has been linked to carbon dioxide made by a West Country plant, Terra Nitrogen, and distributed to a number of companies. A spokesman said yesterday: "We have advised our clients not to transfer any CO2 from Severnside [the plant] to the food and drink industry. We are working alongside our cus-

tomers and Maff [Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food] who are being kept fully informed."

"There is a negligible risk to the public," he added. "We believe this is a quality not a health issue. We have launched a comprehensive inquiry to establish the cause of the problem."

The association said it had been alerted to the contamination problem at the end of last week and had contacted all its members to test their products. Brivac Soft Drinks with-

drew 2.5 million of its 330ml canned drinks - two days' worth of production as a precautionary measure.

Coca Cola Schweppes said "limited quantities" of its products were being withdrawn.

Brecon Natural Mineral Water said the batch concerned was bottled between 15 and 27 May.

A spokeswoman for Maff said: "The amount of benzene you absorb from traffic fumes is about the equivalent of drinking 40 litres of the most contaminated of these drinks."

Sex drug works miracle for church finances

By Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

WHO said sex, drugs and God don't mix? The potent combination has made the Church of England feel like a million pounds.

The Church Commissioners' stake in the manufacturer of the anti-impotence drug Viagra, worth around £1m at the end of last year, has since doubled in value.

This weekend the commissioners' spokesman saw no

moral problem in a Christian body making a mint from a sex drug. The black-market sale of the blue pills to healthy men in other countries who want to improve their sex lives simply underlined how good Britain's regulatory system was, he added.

However, the Church investors are likely to face more serious questions about some of the other names on a list of their shareholdings, released to *The Independent*.

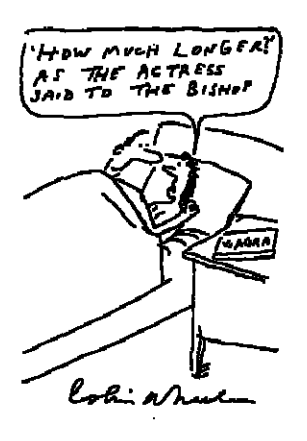
Two arms manufacturers and three major developers of ge-

netically engineered products are among the major investments, along with other companies which have faced protests from campaigning groups.

The Commissioners' shares in GEC and GKN, both of which have major defence arms, were worth a total of £25.7m in December 1997. Stakes in Monsanto, Zeneca and Novartis, all of which are developing modified crops, were jointly worth £36.7m compared with £27.4m at the end of 1996. Since the list was compiled, the

commissioners have sold their £1.3m stake in Monsanto, citing commercial reasons.

Other shareholdings included £66m in BP and £67m in Shell, both of which have faced environmental protests, as well as £11m in Rio Tinto Zinc, a mining company which has been targeted by campaigners on indigenous tribes' land rights. The commissioners also held £2.7m in Nestlé, which has been criticised in the past for sales of baby milk to developing countries.



In brief

PS under fire

A MAJOR overhaul of the Crown Prosecution Service is flooded to stop so many cases being dropped before they get to court, an official report concluded yesterday. The top CPS lawyers spend less than a third of their time on the work and in court. Page 2



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Who's backing who: an insider's guide to the rival wings of New Labour

Over wine and canapes at No.11, Gordon Brown is quietly building his own power base. So who is in his inner circle? By Fran Abrams

AS THE wine flowed at the reception at Number 11 Downing Street, it was time for one Labour backbencher to take leave of his host.

"Lovely party, Gordon," he told the Chancellor of the Exchequer. "The Labour Party? It was, wasn't it?" Brown replied.

The suggestion that anyone could put so much as a Rizia between Mr Brown and Tony Blair draws loud protests from the spin-doctors. Indeed, such a report in *The Independent* yesterday – referring to old Labour tones in a welfare policy paper produced by the Chancellor – merited instant rebuttal by Alastair Campbell, the Blair's spokesman, and Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's man.

There was no question of Mr Brown trying to build a base on the left of the party, they said. While the suggestion that the Chancellor and Prime Minister are at loggerheads would be quite wrong, a certain amount of quiet flesh-pressing has certainly been going on in and around Mr Brown's residence.

The "Iron Chancellor" who stuck to Tory tax and spending plans may not generally be regarded as a left-winger, but he is unobtrusively building up support on that wing.

The reception attended by our friendly MP was not a one-off. There have been other events for backbenchers, a champagne evening for political editors and their wives just a week ago and drinks for Labour peers.

More intriguingly, though, there has also been a series of drinks receptions for party members from each region of the country. Mr Brown would stoutly deny allegations of empire-building, and his spokesmen said the parties were held at the request of the party's Millbank headquarters.

But it seems he paid for the drinks himself. The exercise – if such it is – is a subtle one, but steadily the "old" wing of the grass-roots Labour Party are being wooed.

There is no suggestion, of course, that the Chancellor is thinking of challenging for the

party leadership. If Mr Brown has a game, it must be a long one based on the premise that even the most impregnable leader cannot last forever. But little things keep happening which raise question-marks in the minds of party members.

Trades union leaders report that the Chancellor's attitude to them is commendably warm these days. While there are many political tensions, there is also an open door in Number 11. In fact a TUC delegation will meet Mr Brown today to talk about welfare spending.

The unions have responded in kind. "Gordon has that gut instinct that when people are being screwed they deserve representation. That's not something Blair feels at all, but Gordon comes from that stock," one trade union source said admiringly.

There was a little flurry of diary items earlier this year when Mr Brown turned up at the Transport and General Workers' Union's 75th anniversary. Mr Blair sent a video offering congratulations, but the Chancellor was there in person and made a speech. He was a trade unionist at heart, he told the assembled company.

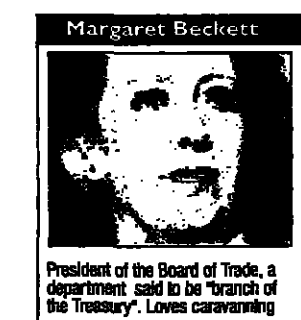
The Prime Minister meets the TUC regularly, of course, but the Chancellor is careful in his cultivation of its members.

Within Parliament, the Gordon Brown effect has also been noticeable. Some observers now claim that the Chancellor has an ally in every government department. One of the closest must be Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade. "The DTI is really just a wing of the Treasury these days," one observer claimed.

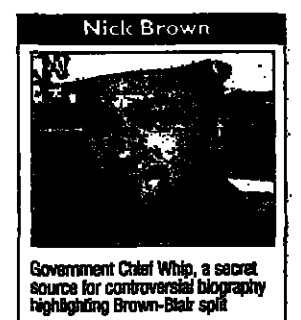
Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, used to be thought to be closest to Tony Blair, but these days many commentators place her in the Brown "camp". Rumours that she may be demoted in a forthcoming reshuffle may have been fuelled by this supposition.

Nick Brown, the Government Chief Whip, is generally regarded as a good friend of the

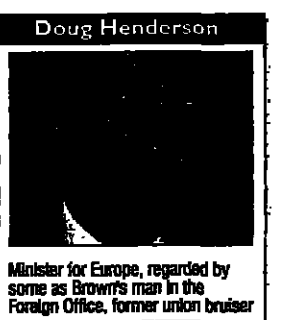
Brown's camp



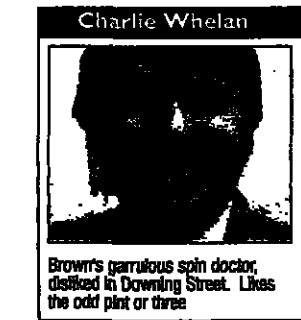
Margaret Beckett
President of the Board of Trade, a department said to be "branch of the Treasury". Loves caravanning



Nick Brown
Government Chief Whip, a secret source for controversial biography highlighting Brown-Blair split



Doug Henderson
Minister for Europe, regarded by some as Brown's man in the Foreign Office, former union bugler



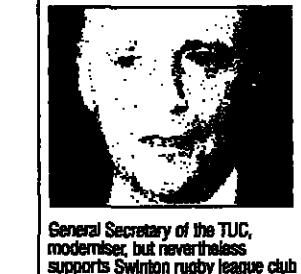
Charlie Whelan
Brown's garrulous spin doctor, disfigured in Downing Street. Likes the odd pint or three



John Monks
General Secretary of the TUC, moderniser, but nevertheless supports Swinton rugby league club



Rodney Bickerstaffe
General Secretary of largest union Unison, old jettie who resembles an ageing Buddy Holly



Gavyn Davies
Chief Economist, Goldman Sachs, leading economist married to Sue Nye from Brown's office



Sarah Macaulay
Brown's partner. PR professional, able to give presentational advice when not planning the wedding

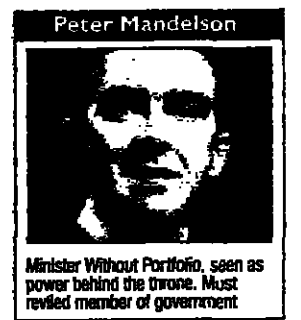
Blair's circle



Lord Irvine
Lord Chancellor, head of chambers where Blair trained. Bon Vivant, likes shopping for expensive wallpaper



Jack Straw
Home Secretary, continues to carry Blair's "tough on crime" torch. Spot of family bother recently



Peter Mandelson
Minister Without Portfolio, seen as power behind the throne. Must be reviled member of government



Tessa Jowell
Public Health Minister, well-regarded by Blair with bright future. One of the original "Blair Babes"



Alastair Campbell
Blair's spin doctor, has been playing former tabloid political editor and contributor to sex magazine



Lord Simon of Highbury
Trade minister and former BP boss Blair's favourite businessman got into hot water over share options



Lord Sainsbury
Enabled by Blair, big donor to Labour funds. Recently quit selling groceries for a political future



Philip Gould
Trusted adviser on polling and presentation. Introduced Labour to Bill Clinton's election techniques

Chancellor. He was named as a main source for much of the information in a new biography of Gordon Brown, written by the former *Independent* on *Sunday* political correspondent Paul Routledge. The book claimed the Chancellor was still bitter at the result of the 1994 succession to John Smith.

The biography revealed that Mr Brown harboured ambitions to run for the leadership himself. But he was out-manoeuvred by Tony Blair's early campaign and eventually agreed to stand aside – a deal said to be have

been sealed at the Granita restaurant in Islington.

At the Department for Education and Employment there is Andrew Smith, who had an office next door to Mr Brown's in the MPs' office block at Number Seven Millbank until about six months before last year's General Election. The Foreign Office minister Doug Henderson is thought to be close to Mr Brown.

In the Scottish Office, Donald Dewar remains friendly with the Chancellor, although most observers say he is too in-

dependent to be a full member of anyone's entourage. There are some doubts, too, about the defence minister John Reid, formerly regarded as a friend of the Chancellor's, but recently locked in battle with the Treasury over spending on the armed forces.

Tony Blair still has the wholehearted support of his entire Cabinet, of course. It is just that in some cases that support is more wholehearted than in others. Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, was head of Mr Blair's chambers when he

was a trainee barrister and is still regarded as one of his closest confidantes. Likewise Peter Mandelson, the Minister Without Portfolio, who was behind the Prime Minister's leadership campaign and who is loathed by many in the Labour Party as a power behind the throne.

Both Jack Straw and Mo Mowlam are admired by Mr Blair, Straw for his enthusiastic carrying of the "Tough on Crime" torch at the Home Office and Mowlam for her handling of the Northern Ireland

brief. More junior ministers who are well liked by Number 10 include Stephen Byers at education, Alan Milburn and Tessa Jowell at health and Alan Michael at the Home Office.

While both the Prime Minister and the Chancellor see businessmen regularly, some are closer to one than to the other. Sir Colin Marshall, the outgoing president of the Confederation of British Industry, has easy access to Mr Blair as does the British Airways chief Bob Ayling.

Mr Brown is known to admire Gavyn Davies, chief economist at Goldman Sachs and husband of one of his advisers, Sue Nye.

Whether or not Mr Brown is seeking the support of the left, he certainly cannot rely on it. Ken Livingstone wrote: "There seems to be nothing in Gordon's life other than the inexorable rise up the ladder of the Labour aristocracy. In Denis Healey's memorable phrase, there is no hinterland, nothing to fall back on if the grand project fails."

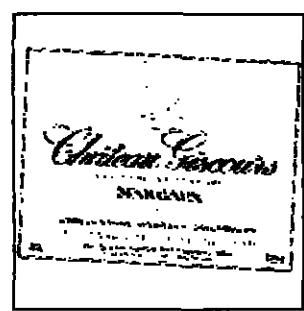
Wine buffs swallow mix of milk, water and plonk in the name of £30 vintage

By John Lichfield
in Paris

THE Margaux 1995, from the Chateau-Giscours, may go down as one of the highest-priced bottles of milk ever sold. And not just milk.

According to a criminal investigation under way in the Bordeaux area, almost 200,000 bottles of the chateau's 1995 second vintage – worth £30 or more in the shops – were doctored with milk, water and fruit acids and adulterated with a cheaper, local red wine.

Several employees of the chateau – one of the best respected names in the Margaux area of the Bordeaux



The Margaux label whose wine had hidden extras

vineyards – have been placed under formal examination for fraud.

According to the newspaper *Le Monde*, the Dutch millionaire who runs the chateau, Eric

Albada-Jelgersma, has also been questioned and may also face criminal charges. In an interview with the newspaper yesterday, a former director of wine-making at the chateau admitted that he had improved and increased the domaine's 1995 Margaux by mixing it with cheaper wine from a vineyard over the road. Jean-Michel Fernandez said he knew this was illegal but he said "lots of people do it".

Such blends utterly defeat the principle of Appellation Controllee – restrictions based on the recognised qualities of vineyards – upon which all French wine-making is based. The judicial investigation is

also examining evidence, drawn from the chateau's own carefully-kept records, that the domaine's 1995 Margaux was doctored in other ways: with milk (to improve the scent or bouquet), water (to increase quantity) and acids (to improve the taste).

The allegations will send shock waves through the French wine industry. There have been similar scandals from time to time, but none since the 1970s involving one of the top names in Bordeaux.

The premier product from the Chateau-Giscours is a Grand Cru Classe – in other words it is classified as one of the very best wines of Bordeaux.

The product at the centre of the allegations is the chateau's second grade wine – a still highly-respected, and highly-priced product, which is labelled as Margaux, Mise en Bouteille à Chateau-Giscours.

The allegation will add to criticism of the organisation which is supposed to police the quality of French wines, the Institut National des Appellations Controllees (INAO).

The INAO has been accused of sometimes allowing inferior wines to be sold under its control, undermining the whole concept of graded wine-growing localities (*terroirs*) upon which France lays claim to make the world's finest wines.

Workers urged to give hour's pay to help children

By Glenda Cooper
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

THE ENTIRE British workforce should donate an hour's earnings to "create a better future for children", a new scheme urged yesterday.

The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, yesterday joined in by pledging to give his final hour's earnings of the millennium to the project which will raise cash for children's charities.

The Children's Promise Campaign, set up by Marks & Spencer as part of the national millennium celebrations, hopes to raise more than £100m

for charities, including Barnardo's, ChildLine, the Children's Society, NCH Action for Children and the NSPCC. Organisers believe more than 60 per cent of the public would be willing to take part in the scheme.

The campaign was launched yesterday as part of M&S's £12m sponsorship for millennium events, which will include supporting a "National Identity Zone" inside the Dome.

The M&S chairman, Sir Richard Greenbury, said he would be giving his last hour's earnings to the fund and encouraging members of staff, customers and other companies

to do likewise. The store chain will set up a way for employees to make their contributions directly through the company's payroll system.

The Minister without Portfolio, Peter Mandelson, who helped launch the scheme also said he would be contributing his final hour's salary and was sure his fellow Cabinet ministers would need no encouragement to do likewise.

A Downing Street spokesman said Mr Blair would be making a donation of "a couple of hundred pounds" – more than an hourly rate for his job. His current salary is £105,173,

though the Prime Minister takes significantly less than his entitlement.

However, M&S boss Sir Richard Greenbury, is likely to put him in the shade with an estimated donation of £450, based on his 1997 earnings – although staff said his final amount could be even higher as he was giving the project his full personal backing.

Organisers said they hoped people would feel generous enough to give a portion of their gross salary and said if companies arranged for payments to be deducted direct from payrolls people could make tax-effi-

cient contributions.

The initiative makes M&S the fifth "founding partner" company to invest £12m in the Dome and millennium celebrations – including BT, BSkyB, Manpower and Tesco.

Jennie Page, chief executive of the New Millennium Experience Company, said Marks & Spencer's £12m pledge brought the total sponsorship raised so far to £87m, out of the £150m needed to hit the £758m budget for the Dome and Festival events.

A helpline has been set up to offer more information about the campaign; call 0870 607 1999.

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Fight against cancer: Government urges print media to banish glamorous images of sunbathers from their pages



Campaign to drive the suntan out of fashion

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Editor

THE Government yesterday launched a drive to make suntanned skin as *passé* as ra-ra skirts and drip-dry shirts. Fashion editors and photographers are being urged to show pale-skinned models reclining in the shade rather than bikini-clad bodies exposed to the burning sun.

Sir Kenneth Calman, chief medical officer, said most people knew about the risks of sunbathing but were ignoring them. A survey of 2,000 people published yesterday showed a third of men and half of women had tried to get a tan in the last year. "We are trying to persuade people not to rush out at the first hint of sunshine to acquire a suntan," he said.

Since health warnings have

fallen on deaf ears, the Government is turning to the image makers. A glossy publication entitled *Sunconscious: Fashion and Beauty - The New Testament*, produced by the Health Education Authority, is being distributed to women's magazines, model agencies and fashion colleges with the claim that images of models lying on palm fringed beaches are selling skin cancer in the same way that images of people smoking sell lung cancer.

The HEA says there were 40,000 new cases of skin cancer in the UK last year of which 32,000 could have been prevented if people had covered up in the sun.

Christopher New, campaign director at the HEA, said images used by fashion editors had changed over the last decade, with more pale-skinned mod-



The media are being asked to stop using images which show suntans as fashionable and healthy (left). Instead, says the HEA, pale-skinned models taking proper precautions (right) should be used. It warns that children and babies (top left) have a high risk of developing cancer later in life.

els and general disdain for the deep mahogany tan, but there was further to go.

"There has been a huge increase in articles on sun protection but only a small change in the images used. We are trying to get the image makers to use the huge influence they wield. The cool shady, covered image could be just as fashionable as the bikini on the beach."

A change had already been achieved in the marketing of sunscreens which were now sold not as tanning products but as providing protection, he said.

The health department survey, published as a statistical bulletin, showed that among 16- to 24-year-olds, three quarters of women and more than half of men had sunbathed in the last year. The incidence of skin

cancer has doubled since 1979 and is higher in women.

However, deaths from skin cancer are higher among men. The likeliest reason is thought to be that men delay seeking medical help for longer than women when they notice changes in their skin.

More women than men said they now took precautions in the sun by covering up or using sunscreens. That suggests that

skin cancer rates in men could start to overtake those in women.

Sir Kenneth said there was no such thing as a "safe" tan. Even when high-factor sunscreen was used, the sun's rays damaged the DNA in the skin causing ageing and the early changes associated with cancer.

For malignant melanoma, the most serious skin cancer, the highest risk is among peo-

ple who suffer sunburn before the age of 15, when most skin damage occurs.

Mr New said schools should take the risk of sunburn seriously by ensuring hats and sunscreens were used when necessary and providing shade in playgrounds.

"The most important thing is that teachers and parents help children to avoid sunburn," he said.

Animal activists blamed for fire

By Kim Sengupta

FEARS grew yesterday of a new wave of violence by animal welfare militants after 40 fire bombs were found under lorries at a livestock transport firm.

The discovery of the explosive devices came after a vehicle was set on fire at the haulier's depot at Bruton, Somerset, in the early hours of yesterday morning. A search revealed bombs hidden in the wheel arches of other lorries.

The company, AE George and Sons, is the biggest in the area and carries sheep, pigs and cattle across the country.

Avon and Somerset police said one of the theories they were working on was that the attack was the work of animal welfare activists.

About a year ago the Animal Liberation Front claimed there was a new mood of militancy among its members. This followed the fire-bombings of a depot belonging to the livestock firm Spiers Haulage in Claverdon, Warwickshire, and meat lorries of Quality Poultry at Brackley, Northamptonshire.

Scotland Yard's Special Branch believes animal welfare militants have been busy re-organising and preparing fresh campaigns since last December.

In February, a bomb which proved to be fake was sent to the Roslin Institute near Edinburgh, which cloned Dolly the sheep. It was sent by an organisation calling itself the Provisional Animal Liberation Front.

In April, ALF members were said to have hijacked a demonstration at a cat breeding farm in Oxfordshire. Around three hundred protesters broke through a metal fence using a battering ram and stoned the owner's home.

Security consultant Robert Emerson said: "We seem to have an escalating situation. The activists have been claiming they are getting in a position to do something dramatic, and this could be the beginning."

THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

Independent and Selfridges
Food Hall Exclusive Summer Event
Wednesday 3 June 7:30pm - 9pm

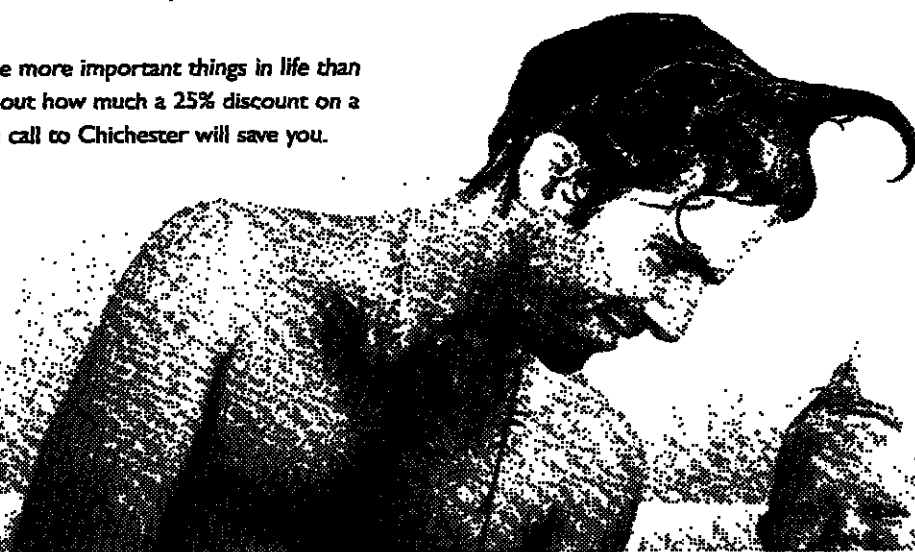


The Independent and Selfridges have again joined forces - this time for a celebration of summer food and drink on the 3rd June. On offer will be a variety of demonstrations from leading producers and suppliers, including caviar, beer and wine tutorials, a sushi-making demonstration and innumerable tutored tastings.

Each reader will be greeted with a complimentary glass of Selfridges champagne and receive a free bottle of Selfridges own-label cold pressed extra-virgin olive oil. Free parking for up to two hours is also available for readers spending more than £10.

Tickets for the event cost only £10 and can be bought on the door. Entry to the event is via the Orchard Street doors of Selfridges, 400 Oxford Street, W1.

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Erina Wallace of Spangles, in Harrogate, Yorkshire, winner of the Flat Nail Artist prize at the Professional Beauty '98 Exhibition at Olympia, west London, demonstrating her work yesterday
Photograph: Suresh Karadia

Officers praise integrity of sex-case padre

A BRIGADIER told a court martial yesterday that if allegations of indecent assault against an army chaplain were true then he was a worse judge of men than he thought possible.

Brigadier David Montgomery said he would have no doubt about the integrity of the padre, Captain Richard Landall, 41, who is accused of four times indecently assaulting the wife of a soldier.

The brigadier, who was garrison commander when the padre was in Celle, Germany, where the offences are alleged to have happened, said he thought he was a pretty good judge of men.

"I am aware of the allegations

made against Padre Landall. If they are true I am a worse judge of men than I thought possible," he said.

Capt Landall denies the allegations, said to have occurred in November last year when he was chaplain to the 2nd Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

Lt-Col Andrew Whistler, commanding officer of the battalion, said he considered Capt Landall to be the best padre he had served with.

"He was exactly the sort of padre an infantry battalion requires in peacetime and most importantly in war," he said.

Earlier, the alleged victim of the indecent assault, who cannot be named for legal reasons, had been recalled to give evidence at the hearing at Aldershot, Hampshire, about contacts she has had with representatives of the *News of the World* about selling her story.

The woman denied she had fabricated her evidence to get money from newspapers.

She claims the chaplain groped her breast and on another occasion rubbed his groin against her bottom.

She also alleges that on other occasions he put his hand down her jogging trousers and kissed her on the lips.

She said that after giving ev-

idence at the hearing she had returned to Germany where she met two people from the *News of the World* and denied she had thought about selling her story before the case had come to court.

Alison Barker, for the defence, said: "I suggest you went after money right from the beginning and before this court case."

The witness said: "There is no amount of money in the world that will compensate for going through this."

She added: "I have done nothing wrong. All I did was come forward to the authorities, say what was happening and say I wanted the situation stopped."

A friend of the woman said that last March the woman and her husband were saying that they intended to go to the newspapers and the padre was going to be in a lot of trouble because of the allegations that had been made. She said the soldier did most of the talking and his wife made comments like "I shall get a lot" and "the papers will be interested".

Charges against the chaplain alleging harassment of another soldier's wife and her husband were dismissed last week at the court martial.

The hearing continues today when it is expected to conclude.

IN BRIEF

Essex firefighters vote to strike over budget cuts

FIREFIGHTERS in Essex are to strike next Monday after voting overwhelmingly to take industrial action in protest at budget cuts, their union announced yesterday. Military Green Goddess fire engines will be drafted in as emergency cover during the four-hour strike from 10am.

Members of the county's Fire Brigades' Union backed industrial action by 642 votes to 272, a majority of 70 per cent.

The union is protesting at plans to cut more than £1m from the authority's budget, which will lead to job losses.

An FBU spokesman said: "The prospect of strike action is now a reality unless the Essex fire authority comes to its senses and uses some of its £28m reserves to settle this dispute."

Green Goddesses were used in Essex a year ago during a strike against cuts by the union.

Ken Cameron, general secretary of the FBU, said: "This dispute and the industrial action it now brings is totally as a result of the crass stubbornness of the Essex Fire Authority in not using a small proportion of the £26m they have in reserve." The Essex Fire Authority made no comment.

Allwood pregnant again

MANDY ALLWOOD, the woman who attempted to have eight babies at the same time but who lost them all, is pregnant again and may be carrying twins.

The 32-year-old, who caused worldwide controversy when she became pregnant in 1996 with octuplets, following fertility treatment, said she was "stunned" at falling pregnant again just four months after giving birth to a baby girl, Color. "We are absolutely thrilled to bits," she said. Ms Allwood, who refused to comment on whether she has been undergoing fertility treatment, is co-writing a book on the subject which she hopes to have published next year.

Concern grows for BBC crew

A BBC crew is still being held in the Yemen, after allegedly filming without permission in areas deemed unsafe by Yemeni authorities. The three men, including BBC Middle East correspondent, Rageh Omaar, have been detained by the Yemeni Attorney General for a week without any charge. They have now been moved to a hotel but remain unable to leave the country. A BBC spokesman said the Corporation is "increasingly concerned". The BBC maintains that the journalists were fully accredited to film in the Yemen and engaged in proper journalism.

Bishop in boycott apology

AN Irish Roman Catholic bishop has apologised for a boycott of Protestant-run businesses - more than 40 years ago.

The 1957 boycott, which was backed by the church authorities of the day, was staged at Fethard-on-Sea in the Irish Republic's Co Wexford.

It centred on a row about a married couple - a Protestant woman and a Catholic man - and the religion in which their children should be brought up.

Multicultural TV awards

COMEDIAN Lenny Henry, writer Hanif Kureishi and Channel 4 sitcom *Desmonds* were honoured by the Royal Television Society last night for contributions to multicultural television. The ceremony, marking the 50th anniversary of the *Windrush* docking with immigrants from Jamaica, was attended by *Independent* columnist Trevor Phillips who gave the RTS Fleming lecture.

Woman trampled by cows

THE body of a woman who was trampled by cows has been found lying beside those of two of her pet dogs. Grace Aldridge, 67, of Lymminster, West Sussex, was found by a man and woman walking along a public footpath. A police officer indicated that it was likely that the victim had been trampled to death by cows.

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Foolproof ways to flush out fibbers

By Barrie Clement
Labour Editor

JOB interviewees who intend to lie about their abilities should avoid touching their noses, shrugging, shifting their posture, sitting on their hands or clapping their chair.

Fibbers should also refrain from verbal tirades and if they smile, make sure they also use their eyes.

A professor of psychology will today issue advice on how to spot liars in interviews, but it could equally help those seeking to pull the wool over the eyes of prospective employers.

Adrian Furnham, of University College London, encourages managers to note any "mismatch" between what applicants say and how they say it.

Professor Furnham will tell a seminar at the Institute of Personnel and Development's recruitment and selection conference that most adults are experienced liars. However, it is important to be aware of the signs: "The ability to detect falsity in facial expression or manner of speech can hold the key to reducing the likelihood of a candidate slipping through the net by the most fantastic deceit."

He suggests some tell-tale signs which might be more difficult to conceal except by the most practised liars such as sweating, pupil dilation and blushing.

"Most of us are 'torso liars' - we can lie with our upper-body - but we are not so good with the lower halves of our bodies," he says.

He concedes that there will be a difference between the nationalities and his advice is aimed at the detection of the British liar.

The Italians will be more "gesture-laden", a trait which in

this country might be interpreted as sign that the interviewee is dissembling.

The Chinese will have different "eye-contact patterns", will look rather stiff compared to the British and may even look frightened. However that may be simply an expression of politeness and deference, according to Professor Furnham.

While most people tend to fib a lot in everyday life - lies of both omission and commission - interviewees are generally truthful, he says. Yet many people are tempted into mild deceptions as they try to sell themselves.

"Lying at interviews can take many forms and has different levels. There is the tendency to attribute desirable characteristics; there is the tendency to deny undesirable characteristics. Then there are the self-deceivers - those who believe their own positive self-reports - and lastly those who deliberately seek to fool the interviewer through lies."

"Making the wrong decision remains every recruiter's nightmare," he adds.

The tendency to embellish the truth at interviews has tended to weaken their objectivity as a recruitment tool, the Professor believes.

Graeme Wright, director of media and research at Park Human Resources, will tell another IPD seminar that traditional selection techniques such as the face-to-face interview are on the brink of decline.

In America, leading employers conduct initial dialogue with prospective recruits on the Internet.

By 2004, some 66 per cent of all homes in Britain will have personal computers, a fact which will revolutionise the world of recruitment, according to Mr Wright.



The health of the 116 species of fish which live in the River Thames, is checked by the Environment Agency, with the help of some schoolchildren

Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

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Success is just a dream for the disabled

By Glenda Cooper
Social Affairs Correspondent

DISABLED children dream of being rich and famous - even more so than their able-bodied peers - but without a change in public attitudes even their most modest hopes will go unfulfilled according to new research.

A survey of 500 seven to eleven-year-olds published today found that more than six out of 10 disabled children want to be rich and famous compared with half of able-bodied children.

They shared childhood desires and dreams - from glamorous aspirations of being a Spice Girl or a Manchester United player - to more down to earth hopes of getting married or having a job.

Yet earlier studies show that without more support, even the more modest hopes of disabled children will go unfulfilled. The national employment rate currently stands at 73 per cent, but this falls to a third for disabled adults. Research by Scope in 1990 showed that job applicants with cerebral palsy

were six times less likely to be invited for a job interview than non-disabled applicants.

The same amount of disabled and non-disabled girls wanted to be pop stars and nearly one in five disabled boys yearned to be a footballer. "I wish I was Posh Spice," said one nine-year-old girl with physical disabilities. "I'd like to play football for England and go to the World Cup," said a nine-year-old dyslexic boy.

Nearly two thirds of disabled children and 54 per cent of non-disabled children said they wanted a job that helped others and six out of 10 of both types of children wanted to get married.

"I would like to be a teacher as I think I would be more sympathetic to disabled children," said Rebekah, nine, from Warrington. "People sometimes don't understand that it's harder to do some things if you have cerebral palsy."

"I would like to be able to run faster and do a lot more things at school," said Louis, 10, from Bournemouth. "I think if I could do all these I would be a lot more popular and I would like it because I would not think of myself being handicapped. I think I would have more friends."

"All children whether disabled or not have dreams for the future," said Richard Brewster, Scope's chief executive. "Achieving those dreams depends on many things - not least determination and hard work. But disabled people have to overcome far greater barriers than non-disabled people... a change in public attitude and tangible commitment from employers and government are needed if the disabled children we have surveyed are to get an equal chance in life."

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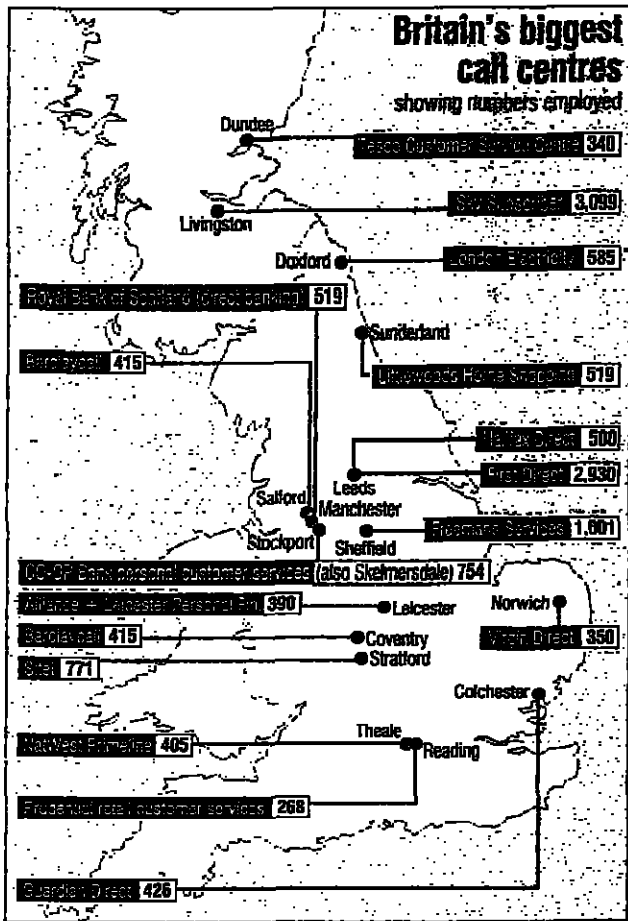
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Phone factories – Britain's new boom industry



Telephonists at First Direct in Leeds: 'You are monitored by supervisors all the time and they sit next to you if there is a particular problem'

Photograph: Joan Russell

Barrie Clement and Susan Woodford report on an Orwellian world of work

THEY ARE the new white-collar factories. The disembodied voice you hear on the end of the telephone is being monitored every minute of their working day and when they finish with your call, 10 seconds later they are expected to be dealing with someone else.

On the walls of the vast open-plan offices are Orwellian exhortations to maximum effort. Conversations with colleagues are frowned upon.

By some estimates there are now some 200,000 people involved in such "call centres" – easily outstripping the number employed in steel, coal and in vehicle manufacture. In fact there are now more call-centre staff than coal miners.

The so-called "computer telephonists" are the fastest

growing occupational group in Britain today, providing customer services, and sales information. There can be few businesses which do not require such facilities and there are few senior managers who cannot see advantages in farming out such activities to call centres.

Further evidence of the boom in call centres came yesterday when Sitel UK, an American-owned company which already operates six centres announced that it was planning to create 10,000 jobs over the next five years.

Sue Fernie, of the Centre for Economic Performance at the London School of Economics, estimates there are now 7,000 such "factories" which employ 1.1 per cent of the British workforce. Academics calculate that

the proportion will double to 2.2 per cent by 2001.

There are strong similarities between the "dark satanic mills" of the nineteenth century and the new production lines of the 21st century – except they are safe, well-lit and there is sometimes a veneer of worker participation.

There is, however, little opportunity to stand and stare. The number of calls waiting is often displayed on a monitor above the "shop floor". Visits to the lavatory are timed.

In most such factories, operators are expected to take a maximum 10-second break between each call. Employees can be routinely dismissed for not meeting their production target without "reasonable" excuse.

In some call centres, turnover in staff can be as high as 30 per cent a year, although the larger companies are beginning to see the advantages of hanging on to experienced staff. Appropriately, one popular

There are similarities between the 'dark satanic mills' of the 19th century and the new production lines of the 21st century

software package used by management in call centres is marketed as "Total Control Made Easy". These white-collar factories often require articulate and adaptable people and some centres attract graduates who

are still searching for a permanent career. One such employee – a 26-year-old graduate currently working at First Direct in Leeds – said he worked a nine-hour shift with half an hour for lunch. "It is noticed if

you take 32 minutes rather than 30," he said.

"You are monitored by supervisors all the time and they sit next to you if there is a particular problem. You are given scores from one to five each

month and you have a one-to-one interview with your supervisor if you fall below target."

He earns a basic £11,800 a year which can reach £13,000 with a bonus, but finds the regime "oppressive". He works non-stop and processes some 100 calls a day. "It's all right as long as you're doing well," he said.

The call companies reject criticism of their treatment of employees. Ann Gunter, head of telephony at NatWest, says staff at the bank's Harrogate call centre are "very very proud of what they do" and apart from the odd niggle "have an awful lot of fun".

Their view is supported by Alastair Hinchett, of research group Incomes Data Services, who says that while the work environment is "very pressured",

a lot of younger people enjoy it and "seem to respond to the team-working environment".

Staff at Norwich Union Direct centres recently received pay rises of up to 18 per cent depending on productivity. "Good performers" received 8 per cent while small numbers got the top pay rises and the company's pay bill rose by around 10 per cent.

Employees, especially in areas of high unemployment, clearly appreciate the higher rates of pay they can earn, and quickly become acclimatised by the higher levels of monitoring they receive.

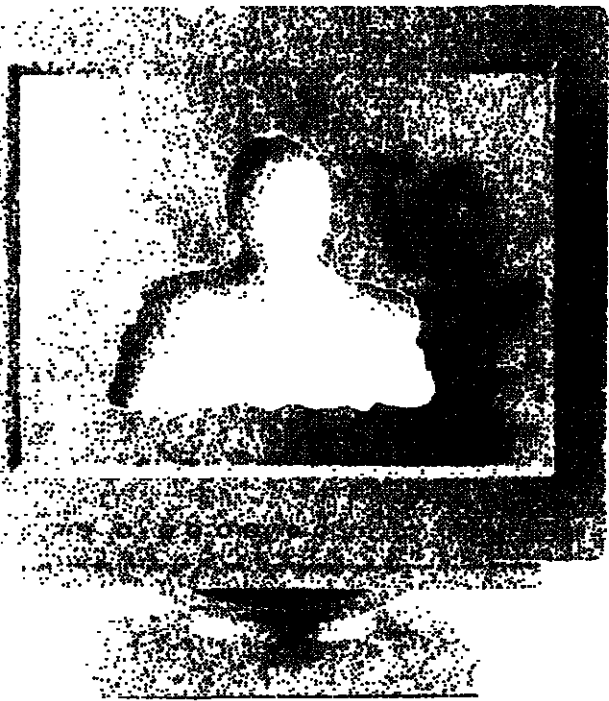
Nevertheless Ms Fernie identifies a problem of "burn out" which is often associated with the need to repeat endlessly the same basic script many times a day. "Eighteen

months is usually about as much as a computer telephonist can cope with," she said.

Many centres increasingly rely on bonuses to motivate staff. Twenty-four hour operation also means that staff receive an increasing range of overtime and shift premium payments hitherto unknown in the traditional office.

Many of the big centres are located outside London to take advantage of plentiful relatively skilled staff and lower wages. London Electricity's billing operation, for instance, is now carried out in Sunderland. The whole process in Britain was pioneered in Britain by Direct Line insurance and by First Direct banking, but has since been adopted by companies in virtually every industrial sector.

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'Alarmist' fears held up action on BSE

By Charles Arthur
Science and Technology Editor

GOVERNMENT officials feared "ill-informed" publicity over mad cow disease could cause serious "public alarm" and lead to "hysterical demands for immediate draconian government measures".

They were also concerned that this might in turn upset beef exports, the BSE Inquiry heard yesterday.

But their actions were defended by a former senior civil servant who said that they were "understandable".

The warnings were included in a confidential memo, released yesterday by the Inquiry, to a junior minister at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) in July 1987.

The memo, from the head of the ministry's Animal Health Division, J C Suich, and addressed to the then parliamentary secretary, Donald Thompson, said any harsh measures on Britain's part "could alarm other countries and lead them to prohibit imports of cattle, semen and embryos from this country."

It stated that MAFF officials advised that the best plan was to acknowledge that BSE existed, and to emphasise that it was being "thoroughly investigated" - but not do anything until more was known about it, "beyond attempting to ensure that publicity is well-informed and not unduly alarmist".

Seven months elapsed between the identification of BSE as a disease and ministers be-

ing informed, according to another memo presented to the Inquiry. That was dated June 5 1987, to Mr Thompson, from the then Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) Howard Rees.

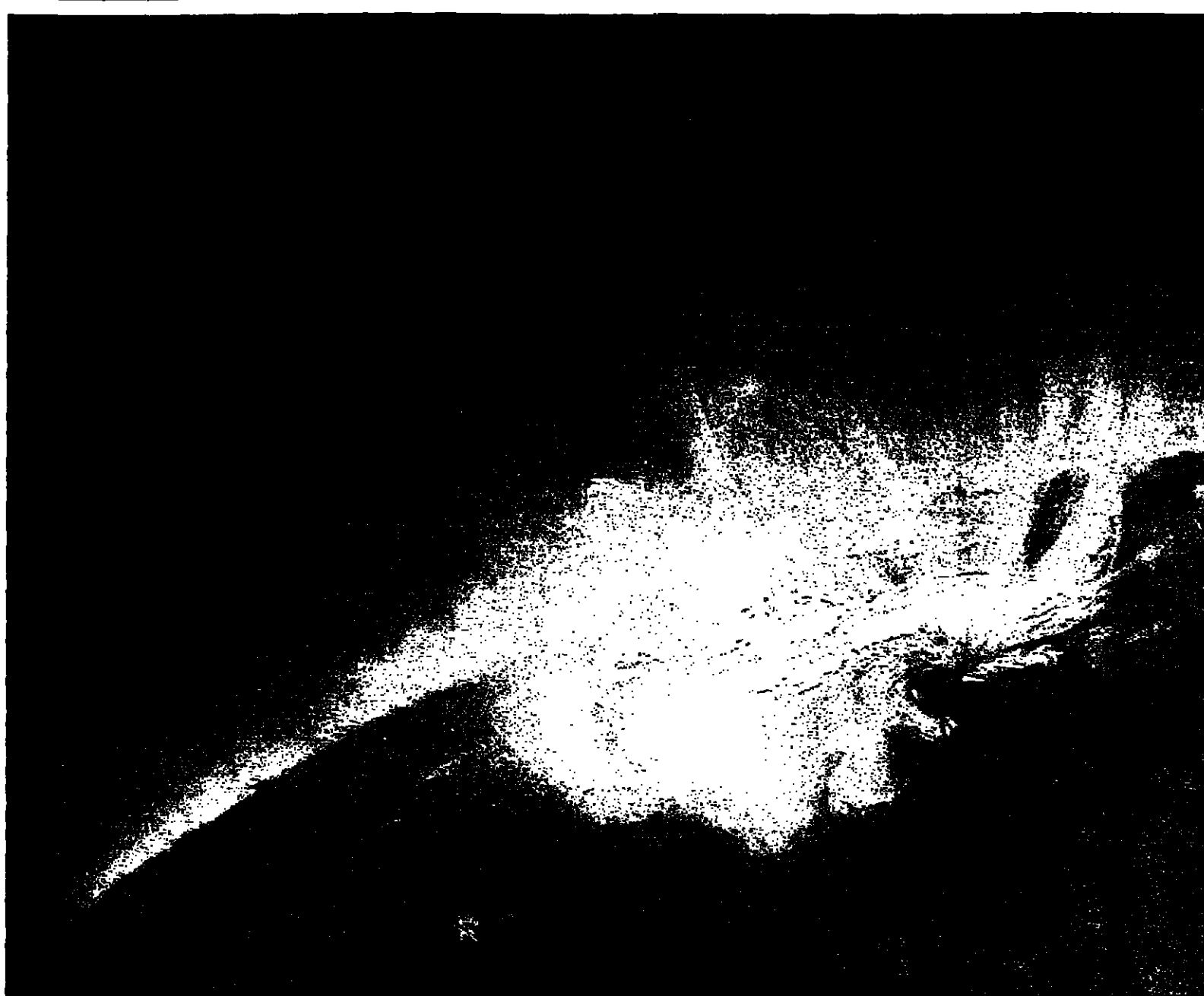
Giving evidence to the Inquiry yesterday, Sir Michael Franklin, Permanent Secretary at MAFF until October 1987, said he had met with the Chief Veterinary Officer to discuss the implications of BSE on June 10, the day before the 1987 General Election.

Minutes of the meeting recorded that the CVO's prime concern was how to handle publicity about BSE.

Yesterday Sir Michael said: "I think it is very understandable that when you have a new phenomenon about which you know so little, there is a danger that it can be misunderstood. It would be the concern of the CVO not to arouse undue alarm and concern."

He had no criticism of the time it had taken officials and scientists to bring BSE to ministers' notice. "It seems to me that the scientists were wrestling with trying to understand what it was. Even in June there was a great deal not known. I think one has to leave it to the sense of scientists to judge at what point they could make a meaningful statement."

Asked if in hindsight he could see any shortcomings in the ministry from which lessons might be learned, he said: "I don't think I can put my finger on a particular organisation or weakness that made the problem worse than it proved to be."



Cool Sun bursts with magnetic energy

By Charles Arthur

FIELDS of magnetic energy resembling "loops" are released from the Sun's surface (above) - the sort of event that can trigger a solar flare, disrupting communications satellites and power systems here on Earth.

Known as a "magnetic reconnection", the loops were thrown out from the surface - where the red areas indicate

temperatures of 1.1mC, and even the "cool" blue areas are at 200,000C - into space, and then curved back together. The effect of their interplay is to release huge amounts of energy, like a twisted rubber band unwinding or breaking, according to scientists at the US space agency Nasa, who captured the picture.

The superheated gas that fuels our star is constantly be-

ing ejected by processes within the body of the Sun which scientists are still struggling to understand. "Our mission is to understand in great detail how energy is transported from the solar surface into the outer atmosphere," said Dr Alan Title, head of Stanford Lockheed Institute in Palo Alto, California.

Normally, the surface of the Sun is relatively cool - about 5,000C - yet its upper at-

mosphere, the corona, has temperatures of 1.6mC. The spacecraft being used to study this energy transfer is called Trace. Launched in April, it will be able to record changes in solar activity in greater detail, both in time and distance.

That should help, said Dr Title, because past systems had to average data over long periods: "This made it difficult to get at the fundamental

physics." He added: "Trace has given us many surprises already. We found that even large areas of the Sun, some more than 96,000 kilometres (60,000 miles) can heat up or cool down significantly, and thus appear and disappear on our instruments in just a few minutes."

Photograph: Dr Alan Title
Stanford Lockheed Institute
for Space Research and Nasa

Nanny caught stealing on video

A DEBT-RIDDEN nanny was caught stealing from her employer's handbag after a video camera was set up in the dining room to trap her, a court was told yesterday.

Helen Eckstein, 22, rifled through Diana Wethered's bag at the family home at Avebury Trusloe, in Wiltshire, and stole cash. She was ordered to do 80 hours' community service by magistrates in Devizes yesterday and to pay £170 in compensation and costs.

Eckstein, of Bexhill, East Sussex, had admitted two charges of theft and a further charge of failing to surrender to police bail at an earlier hearing.

A statement given out by Eckstein's solicitor after the hearing said: "She is truly sorry for committing the offence against the Wethereds but she is relieved the case has now come to an end so she can plan positively for the future."

The court was told that Eckstein was taken on as a nanny to look after the family's five children, aged three to ten. She was appointed after replying to an advertisement placed in the *Lady* magazine. But shortly after her appointment last September, Mrs Wethered noticed that money was going missing.

Guy Knell, for the prosecution, said that Mrs Wethered had carried out a "little experiment" by leaving cash in three places around the house. After one note disappeared, Mr Knell said Mrs Wethered set up a video camera. Police later watched the film which showed Eckstein looking through bags and purses in the dining room four times.

Eckstein was said to have debts of more than £5,000 which she ran up as a student at Wolverhampton University. Stephen Clifford, for the defence, said that Eckstein had taken the money to stave off creditors.

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A family of businesses

Hague stakes leadership on sharp right turn

By Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

WILLIAM Hague yesterday gambled his leadership on a wide-ranging reshuffle moving the Tory Party further to the right. The Tory leader brought in new faces in the hope of kick-starting the Opposition into a fight back against the Government.

"We have been completely paralysed in the past few months," said one senior Shadow Cabinet figure. "William has told us all we have got to get stuck in. That is what we intend to do."

The reshuffle consolidated the hold of the Eurosceptics over the heart of the Conservative Party in the Commons, with John Redwood remaining at trade and industry and Francis Maude taking over as shadow Chancellor.

Out went old-guard Brian Mawhinney, home affairs spokesman, and Stephen Dorrell, from education, who voluntarily bowed out. The only front-bencher Mr Hague had to sack was the former government chief whip, Alastair Goodlad.

Lord Parkinson will step down as the chairman of the party, as earlier reported in *The Independent*, at the annual Tory party conference in October. He will hand over to Michael Ancram, a Scottish Tory aristocrat and former Northern Ireland minister, who is well liked in the party and will act as a foil to the sharper, modernising vice-chairman, Archie Norman, the former boss of the Asda stores chain.

The appointment of Ann Widdecombe to appeal to the Tory grassroots and "get stuck in" to the Government was seen as a shrewd move by Mr Hague, who is hoping that attacking Tony Blair over his promises on health will take the shine off the Government's other policy pledges.

Tory leadership sources claimed that Mr Hague had planned "months ago" to hold the reshuffle yesterday but the timing, coming days after one opinion poll showed his leadership had failed to make any dent on the Government's popularity, suggested that it could be a desperate attempt to get the Opposition out of the doldrums.

The key change came with the promotion of Mr Maude from the culture portfolio to replace the lacklustre Peter Lilley as shadow Chancellor. Mr Maude, a former Treasury minister and young Thatcherite, was ordered to take on Gordon Brown as the Chancellor prepares to unveil the comprehensive spending review.

Mr Lilley has been given the task, once carried out by Rab Butler, of restoring the intellectual cutting edge of the Conservatives, with new policies for the next election manifesto. His title as deputy leader - previously held by Willie Whitelaw - was presented by the Tory leadership as a promotion.

But it infuriated the Tory left, and upset the right. One Labour MP encountered two Tory MPs having a row at the members'



Tory party leader William Hague arriving at Central Office in Westminster yesterday for his Shadow Cabinet reshuffle. Photograph: Andrew Burman

entrance, with one left-wing Tory fuming because Mr Lilley had been promoted against a right-winger, who was angry because he had been demoted. However, Mr Lilley will ensure that the Tories have a right-wing

agenda for the next election.

The "newcomers" who consolidated the right-wing shift of the team included former whip David Willetts, a Lilley supporter and policy specialist; Liam Fox (constitutional affairs), and

Gary Streeter (international development). Peter Alisworth, a former Opposition whip, was put in charge of culture.

In further junior appointments, Mr Hague promoted Bernard Jenkin, an arch Eu-

rosceptic from the back bench to environment under Gillian Shephard; right-winger Alan Duncan as Ms Widdecombe's deputy at health; John Whittingdale, Lady Thatcher's former aide, to the Treasury; and

eight new MPs to frontbench jobs, including Oliver Letwin, former member of Lady Thatcher's policy unit, to constitutional affairs. But pro-Europe MP Quentin Davies was appointed to social security.

NEW SHADOW CABINET

Leader of the Opposition - William Hague
Deputy leader - Peter Lilley
Shadow Foreign Secretary - Michael Howard
Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer - Francis Maude
Shadow Home Secretary - Sir Norman Fowler
Party chairman - Lord Parkinson
Deputy party chairman - Michael Ancram
Spokeswoman on environment, transport and the regions - Gillian Shephard
Shadow Leader of the House of Commons - Sir George Young
Trade and industry spokesman - John Redwood
Shadow Leader of the House of Lords - Viscount Cranborne
Defence spokesman - John Maples
Shadow chief secretary to Treasury - David Heathcoat-Amory
Social security spokesman - Iain Duncan Smith
Agriculture, food and fisheries spokesman - Michael Jack
Northern Ireland spokesman - Andrew MacKay
Health spokeswoman - Ann Widdecombe
Education and employment spokesman - David Willetts
Constitutional affairs spokesman - Liam Fox
Culture, media and sport spokesman - Peter Ainsworth
International development spokesman - Gary Streeter
Opposition Chief Whip (Commons) - James Arbuthnot
Opposition Chief Whip (Lords) - Lord Strathclyde

Marchers turn heat on Ulster agreement

By David McKittrick
Ireland Correspondent

THE political status of Sinn Féin dominated Northern Ireland exchanges yesterday, with calls for decommissioning, allegations of republican involvement in weekend rioting, and continuing controversy over invitations to Sinn Féin leaders to a royal garden party.

The most immediately ominous issue, following Saturday's disturbances at the Garvaghy Road trouble spot in Portadown, Co Armagh, is that of the loyalist marching season, which is worrying many in government and the security forces.

The season's chief predicament continues to be that which has dominated Northern Ireland's summers for the past three years: whether to allow Portadown Orangemen to walk

along Garvaghy Road, or to halt the parade in line with the wishes of Catholic residents.

Fifteen policemen and four civilians were injured during Saturday's disturbances, when more than 30 petrol bombs were thrown, together with a number of blast bombs. There were allegations that the use of blast bombs was an indication that republicans were involved, since such devices require prior manufacture.

Alistair Graham, chairman of the Parades Commission, defended its decision not to ban the march. He said: "We decided this was not a parade we needed to intervene in. We are talking about 40 children and one band. It hardly touched the Garvaghy Road. It was mainly in a non-contentious area."

The weekend violence and its implications was discussed by

the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, in Dublin last night.

In their first meeting since sealing the Good Friday Agreement, the two leaders reviewed developments in Northern Ireland including the continuing security threat posed by paramilitary groups opposing the terms of the Stormont settlement.

Meanwhile, it is believed that leaders of three republican factions: the INLA, the Continuity IRA, and a third group led by a former IRA quarter master, met in Dundalk last week to discuss co-ordinating paramilitary attacks.

On Sunday, Ronnie Flanagan, the Royal Ulster Constabulary's chief constable, suggested the three groups may soon coalesce under a single command.



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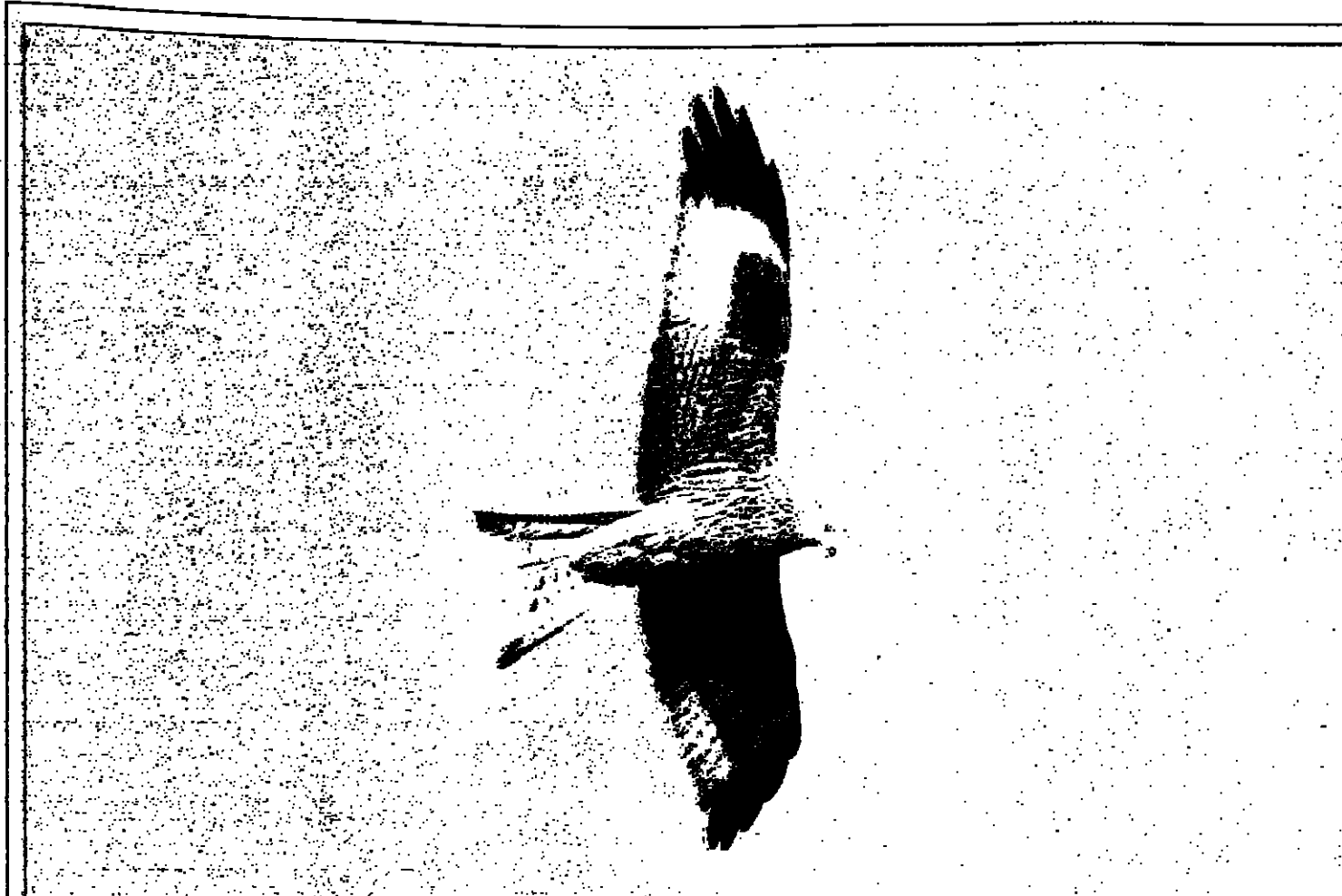
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The red kite can now be seen along the M40. Above right, the golden eagle, target of nest robbers

Photographs: Planet Earth

Extinct bird of prey takes the fast road to recovery

By Michael McCarthy
Environment Correspondent

ENGLAND has a new motorway bird – the red kite. Confined to Wales for most of this century, the spectacular fork-tailed bird of prey can now be seen regularly from the M40 that links London and Birmingham.

Carriageway twitchers used to spotting kestrels hovering over grassy motorway embankments may now keep an eye out for their larger and showier cousin.

The bird, a carrion feeder and once a scavenger on London's streets (and mentioned as such in Shakespeare) became extinct in England in 1870, and in Scotland in 1890. The remotest parts of mid-Wales remained its only stronghold. But in 1989 a few kites from Spain were reintroduced into the Chiltern Hills in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire – and now their population is booming.

The English red kites have increased from four pairs in 1992 to



125 breeding pairs, making a total of about 200 pairs in Britain.

But not all is success. Seven red kites were poisoned last year and two nests were robbed by egg collectors, the RSPB said yesterday, releasing figures on crimes committed against wild birds in 1997. Nest robberies as a whole doubled from 37 in 1996 to 75 in 1997, including from 42 peregrines, eight goshawks, three golden eagles and three ospreys. There were 92 poisoning incidents, half of them involving birds of prey.

Of 671 reports of crimes against wild birds, 330 were against birds of prey. RSPB conservation director Graham Wynne said: "It is disgraceful that we recorded 671 bird crimes in 1997, even if this represents a slight drop from the previous year. It is particularly disturbing that birds of prey are still the prime targets of many offenders." He added that there had been a "welcome increase" in the number of successful prosecutions.

"In terms of reintroductions, it has been a phenomenal success," he said. "Twitchers should be on red alert in particular between junctions 2 and 7 of the M40."

The kites have also been reintroduced to Scotland, where last year 23 pairs bred. In Wales, too, the population is growing, with about

Lawrence detective apologises for slurs

By Kate Watson-Smyth

A policeman involved in the investigation into the murder of Stephen Lawrence yesterday apologised to the teenager's family and their lawyer over claims that they hindered the investigation.

Detective Sergeant Peter Flook, now retired, was office manager of the incident room set up to deal with the racist murder. He had accused Stephen's parents of revealing confidential police information about the identities of key suspects in the days following their son's murder. But yesterday at the public inquiry into the murder, Mr Flook admitted: "I made a mistake. I was wrong."

The inquiry has heard that five white youths alleged to have stabbed Stephen in Eltham, south-east London, in April 1993 were named by numerous informants in the first 48 hours. But they were not arrested for at least a fortnight.

Under questioning from Stephen Kamlish, counsel for the Lawrence family, Mr Flook conceded they had never been told the confidential information he accused them of revealing: "If I caused any offence to Mr Lawrence I apologise."

He also withdrew claims that Imran Khan, the Lawrence family's solicitor, had "pestered" the investigation team and hindered its efforts to find the killers.

Mr Flook, who retired in 1993 while the inquiry was still ongoing, said that four letters from Mr Khan to the police team investigating the murder had provided helpful information and also contained reasonable requests from the family to be kept informed of progress in the case.

When asked by Mr Kamlish if he wanted to apologise to Mr Khan over claims that the solicitor had adopted an "uncooperative" approach, Mr Flook said simply: "Yes."

His evidence was the latest embarrassment for the Lawrence investigation team whose detectives have admitted to a series of mistakes. Claims of racism and corruption have been levelled at the detectives.

Five men have been named in connection with the murder. Neil Acourt and Gary Dobson, both 22, and Luke Knight, 20, were acquitted of murder at the Old Bailey in 1996. The cases against James Acourt and David Norris, both 21, never came to trial while a private prosecution against them collapsed after a judge ruled identification evidence inadmissible.

The five have been summonsed to give evidence at the inquiry next week, but have said via a solicitor that they will challenge the legality of the summonses in the High Court. So far they have not done so. But even if they do turn up, nothing they say can be taken to incriminate them.

The inquiry's remit is to examine how the investigation and prosecution were conducted – not to establish who killed Stephen. But so far a picture has emerged in which the police investigating the teenager's murder failed to act on early information naming the five men, allowing the killers vital time to dispose of evidence.

Stephen's mother, Doreen, yesterday spoke for the first time since the inquiry began. "It is incredible that it has taken a public inquiry for me to hear officers of high rank make excuses for their conduct," she is reported to have said.

DAILY POEM

The Canberra Suburbs' Infinite Extension

By Les Murray

Citizens live in peace and honour
in Pearce and Higgins and O'Connor,
Campbellites drive Mercedes-Benzes,
lobbyists shall multiply in Mercies –
but why not name suburbs for ideas
which equally have shaped our years?

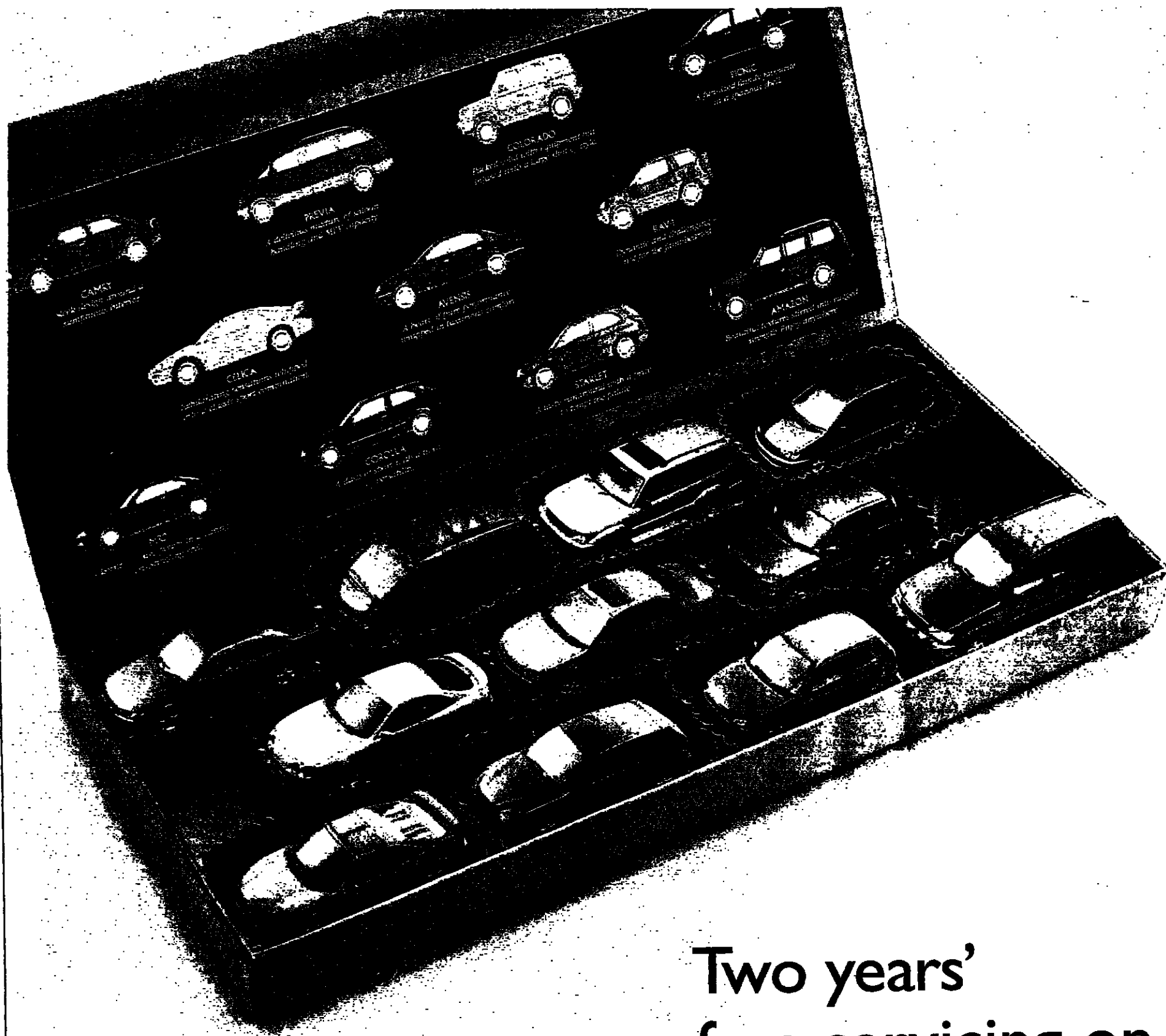
I shall play a set of tennis
in the gardens of Red Menace

Shall I scorn to plant a dahlia
in the soil of White Australia?

Who will call down Lewis Mumford
on the streets of Frugal Comfort?

Oh live in Fadden and be content:
everywhere's Environment.

Our poems this week celebrate the publication of Les Murray's *Collected Poems* by Carcanet Press (£12.95). Born on a New South Wales farm in 1938, Murray has been a full-time writer since 1971: in 1996, he won the TS Eliot Prize. This poem first appeared in *Lunch and Counter Lunch* (1974).



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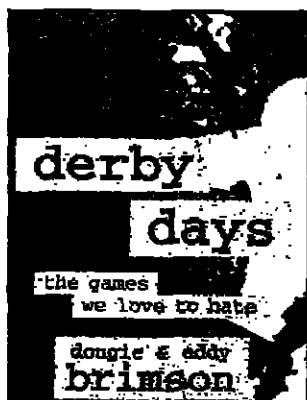
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Football jobs are kicking up a literary storm before the World Cup but they have run into problems, Jason Bennetto reports



Football thug Paul Dodd, who has written about his 'adventures'. Above: the Brimston brothers' Derby Days. Below: Guvners, by Mickey Francis. Photograph: Raoul Dixon



Why police show a red card to this hooligan's book

AN expected rash of books and articles written by football hooligans trying to cash in on their exploits during the World Cup has prompted a police warning that they could encourage fighting and rioting.

The warning follows the disclosure that Paul Dodd, a convicted hooligan banned from every Football League ground in Britain, plans to have his book, believed to be called *Serial Adventures of a Soccer Yob*, published next Monday – two days before the start of the finals in France.

Dodd, 26 – a member of the hooligan outfit Carlisle's Border City Firm – revels in the title of Britain's worst soccer thug and has more than 30 convictions. One of his victims had to have his cheek stapled together after a knife attack.

In 1995, Dodd was arrested after being involved in the Dublin riot and was held by Italian police after attacking two men on his way to England's World Cup qualifier in Rome last October.

The National Criminal Intelligence Service, which includes a football hooligan unit, is concerned that football thugs who "glorify violence" could encourage fighting at the World Cup.

The NCIS yesterday appealed to media outlets not to publish material written by hooligans and said that the police would consider taking any media outlets that promoted or serialised the new books to the

Press Complaints Commission. Mark Steele, head of news at NCIS, said: "We expect various hooligans to cash in on the World Cup. We are sharply against this – we don't think criminals should be allowed to profit out of criminal activities and glorify violent crime, and the media should not encourage them to do so."

"We would be against any media organisation who tried to publish or serialise extracts of the books. Articles written by hooligans are not helpful either. This would be exceptionally unhelpful in the run-up to the World Cup."

He added: "We would have to look at taking action to stop convicted hooligans – if, for example, the press were to serialise the works of a convicted criminal we might well make a complaint to the Press Complaints Commission."

In the past couple of years a small industry has built up around the publications of books based on the reminiscences of soccer hooligans – some of whom have reformed.

Most sell fewer than 10,000 copies, but other authors, such as former hooligans Dougie and Eddy Brimston, who have just published their fourth book, *Derby Days – the game we love to hate*, have sold about 100,000 books.

One of their previous books, *Capital Punishment*, is, according to the promotional material, "a remarkable and frank examination of football vio-

lence involving the supporters of clubs from the capital."

Authors can expect to be paid between £2,500 and £20,000, although most manuscripts are rejected for being badly written and boring. Frequently they are by fanatics detailing their every cup of Bovril or by louts recalling fictitious battles with rival gangs.

Mickey Francis, the author of another recently published book, *Guvners*, is, according to the book's cover: "The first of the hooligan 'top boys' to tell his story."

Francis, 37, has been "a football hooligan since his youth", proclaims the publicity; "he has numerous convictions for violence-related offences, has served two prison terms and is currently banned from every soccer ground in Britain."

The back-cover promotion adds: "Mickey Francis and his brothers led an army of Manchester City thugs on a 15-year trial of terror on the streets and football terraces of Britain."

"They fought scores of pitched battles with rival 'firms' until their violent reign was brought to an end by the police... *Guvners* tells it the way it was in the heyday of the hooligan culture."

The book is dedicated "To all the football firms that stood and fought on the terraces".

One of the best-selling novels about hooliganism, and one not written by one of the perpetrators, was the *The Football Factory*, by John King. Published



A tussle at the 1995 game between England and Ireland in Dublin, after which Dodd was arrested. Photograph: Simon Mooney

in 1996 it has gone on to sell 140,000 copies.

Ian Marshall, the sports publisher of Headline Publishing, whose authors include the Brimston brothers, said: "In the past few years these type of books have been one of the big

boom areas in sports publishing. "They are written by a very specific type of fan, but they seem to have a much more general appeal among all football fans."

He denied that the Brimston's books glorified violence.

"They are not glorifying football hooliganism. They have been working hard to come up with solutions to the problem of violence."

He added that he had been approached by an American agent to see whether he was in-

terested in publishing Paul Dodd's book, but had declined the offer.

"The theme was wanting to glorify and cash in on being a bad boy. It's not something we wanted to get involved with," Mr Marshall said.

Hepatitis surgeon 'ignored scalpel wound'

A SURGEON infected with hepatitis B continued with an operation despite the fact his finger was "oozing" with blood after he cut it on a scalpel, the General Medical Council was told yesterday.

Sanjay Ingley insisted on continuing with the surgery despite the amount of blood, saying it was in the patient's best interests to carry on.

But 83-year-old Blodwen Jenkins died of hepatitis B 14 weeks after Mr Ingley carried out the hip replacement operation at Ysbyty Gwynedd hospital in Bangor in July last year.

Mr Ingley denied a charge of serious professional misconduct when he appeared in front of the GMC yesterday.

He took up the job as a registrar specialising in orthopaedics at the hospital last July despite knowing he was infected with hepatitis B.

He admitted cutting his finger during the operation but denied it was bleeding heavily as he carried on. He also denied taking inadequate precautions to protect patients and colleagues.

The hospital was aware that he carried the virus, which is transmitted through blood, but allowed him to carry on working because he was considered to be a low-risk carrier.

Staff Nurse Elaine Gregory, from Anglesey, who assisted in the operation on the elderly patient, told how Mr Ingley had cut one of the fingers on his left hand when he made the incision. "It was bleeding quite heavily," she said. "You could see the blood. I would say it was oozing. I vaguely remember swabs being used and another pair of gloves was put on the top of the ones he was wearing."

Mrs Gregory, who was not aware at the time that Mr Ingley had hepatitis B, said she was concerned about the amount of blood and also the fact that the surgeon said his finger was numb. But he insisted on carrying on, saying it was in the patient's best interests because the incision had been made.

Mrs Gregory added: "As the operation progressed, you could see [the blood] coming up the glove to the palm. That was how it appeared."

She said that after the operation one of the other nurses was concerned that an accident report form should have been filled in about the cut. The hospital said that none was filled in at the time.

Dr Lindon Miles, who worked in the hospital's occupational medicine department at the time, told the hearing that Mr Ingley had been issued with a certificate saying that he was fit for duty after tests showed he was a low-risk carrier and he satisfied the hospital authorities that he was fully aware of safe methods of working.

The hearing continues.

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Vinnie Jones denies biting neighbour

THE WELSH international footballer Vinnie Jones bit, punched and kicked a neighbour in a late-night row over a stile, a court was told yesterday.

Timothy Gear, 27, a riding school owner from Redbourn, Hertfordshire, said that Mr Jones had punched him to the floor and stamped on his head.

Mr Jones, 33, also of Redbourn, agreed that an incident had occurred in the mobile home where Mr Gear lived last November. But he denied punching, kicking or biting and said he and Mr Gear had only "thrashed around".

In a hearing before magistrates in St Albans, Mr Jones pleaded not guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm and causing criminal damage.

The court was told that Mr Jones had built a stile and gate on the edge of his land to keep out motorcyclists. But he heard that Mr Gear had taken the stile down so that he could get some horses through the fence.

Mr Gear told the court that he was asleep at home at about 11pm on 11 November when he was awoken by a banging at the

door. He had got up when the window of the caravan was smashed in. "I opened the door. Vincent Jones grabbed me by the shoulders and put his teeth into the top of my scalp," he said.

Mr Gear said he managed to push himself away from Jones and was then attacked again. He said Mr Jones, who is assistant player-manager at Queen's Park Rangers, had accompanied his assault with volleys of abuse.

Mr Gear said the attack ended after a neighbour intervened. He said he had hospital treatment for a cut lip, cut nose and bruising and facial swelling.

Mr Jones said he had learnt that Mr Gear had taken down his stile after spending the day shooting. He said he had seen Mr Gear's light on as he drove home and decided to discuss the issue there and then. He said that day he had drunk only one glass of red wine and part of a half-pint of Guinness.

He insisted that he had not intended to cause trouble, saying: "It was not a fight. It was more like a trial of strength."

The hearing was adjourned until today.

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Race to reach Afghanistan quake survivors

By Peter Popham
in New Delhi

THE HARSH mountain terrain of northern Afghanistan echoed to the throbbing of United Nations and Red Cross helicopters yesterday, as the international effort to bring relief to the victims of Saturday's enormous earthquake got under way.

With dozens of villages more or less destroyed, and some of them completely buried, it is feared that at least 3,000 people have already died. Now the race is on to reach survivors in the far-flung and inaccessible communities affected, and ferry them to local hospitals or makeshift clinics set up by the relief organisations.

The force of the quake sent houses roaring down mountainsides into the valleys below.



There are estimates of up to 80 villages heavily damaged, and another dozen obliterated.

Aftershocks lingered in the region yesterday, sending frightened residents scrambling outdoors. Many people are refusing to return to homes still standing, said Sarah Russell, a United Nations spokesperson in neighbouring Pakistan.

"The aftershocks that continue to shudder through the region, sometimes only minutes apart, keep people from moving back into their houses and remind a population already traumatised... that another could easily strike," she said.

In Chaujan, a village near the quake's epicentre, thousands of homes were flattened. People

wandered through the rubble, dazed. In the middle of the devastation, a lone wooden door stood erect.

The International Red Cross and the UN scrambled to establish mobile medical units in Shari Basurkh, about 50km (30 miles), from Faizabad, the capital of northern Badakhshan province. Many of the wounded loaded onto helicopters were elderly and small children.

Cargo aircraft from neighbouring Pakistan, packed with emergency supplies, reached the region yesterday.

As relief workers reach the hardest hit areas, they have begun worrying about the risk of diseases like malaria, because of the rain, Ms Russell said. Other health hazards include hemorrhagic fever and cholera, she said.

The French Foreign Ministry planned to send about 35 tons of humanitarian aid to nearby Dushanbe, Tajikistan, where it will be transported to the disaster area.

Soldiers hostile to the Taliban regime in Kabul, who control the stricken region, say they have removed 1,650 bodies, but they said thousands more people are dead.

When a huge earthquake hit the same area in February, the relief organisations were unable, due to freezing temperatures and ferocious storms, to reach the area for five days. This time around they were on the spot almost at once. Much of the logistical support set up in February was still in place – and many of the villagers were still rebuilding mud huts damaged or demolished in February.

Cargo planes brought tents, food, medicines and other supplies to the airport in the town of Faizabad, and from there helicopters took off to bring supplies to the stricken villages, and pick up casualties, many suffering broken limbs. The only roads in the region are rough tracks, impassable by motor vehicles even at the best of times, suitable only for camels and mountain ponies. Many of

these have in any case been destroyed by the earthquake.

Both earthquakes occurred between the towns of Faizabad and Rostaq. The events in February were particularly calamitous because the earthquake struck at night, when the villagers were all indoors. Saturday's quake occurred during the day, when most people were working in the fields, and in the height of summer. But the earthquake, which measured 7.1 on the Richter scale, struck an area twice as large as that affected in February, and inhabited by twice as many people. February's disaster left about 4,000 people dead; Saturday's may turn out to have been even more fatal.



Homeless villagers yesterday helping evacuate a man injured in Saturday's earthquake, which killed at least 3,000 people. Photograph: Saeed Khan/AFP

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Fans grounded as French pilots' strike kicks off

By John Lichfield
in Paris

THE skies over France fell silent – or almost silent – yesterday. A strike by Air France pilots forced the cancellation of the vast majority of the airline's internal and foreign flights.

The day passed off peacefully. Most would-be travellers seemed to have made other plans, taking trains or other airlines, or just staying at home. Much greater disruption, and anger, can be expected today, when tens of thousands of people try to return home after the Pentecost long weekend.

With no early end to the strike in sight, it is looking more and more likely that the dispute will upset long-distance travel to the World Cup, which starts a week tomorrow.

Among the early victims – an own goal scored from the air – was the French football squad, which was due to fly to Finland for its last pre-contest friendly match on Thursday. Its scheduled Air France flight has been cancelled. The French football authorities, like thousands of other people, were scrambling to make alternative arrangements yesterday.

The largest pilots' union, which represents over 60 per cent of the state-owned airline's 3,200 pilots and navigators, is threatening to stay out until 15 June, five days after the World Cup begins. Five other smaller unions have declared a four- or five-day strike, until the weekend, but may prolong their action.

Air France is the "official airline" of the World Cup. It guarantees that scores of special team flights during the contest will take place, even if executives have to leave their offices to

take the controls. Scheduled, and special, flights for fans are, however, a different story.

The French government faces the embarrassment of watching many of the longer-distance travellers to the World Cup – from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the United States, Japan and South Korea – being forced to switch their flights to other airlines or other destinations, such as London or Amsterdam or Frankfurt. The newspaper *Le Figaro* described this yesterday as a national humiliation. "These people will never again place their trust in this bizarre country, which gives moral lessons to the planet, but bows before a few handfuls of wealthy [protesters]," the veteran journalist, Georges Siffert, wrote in a front-page editorial.

Air France pilots earn up to £100,000 a year, 20 per cent more than British Airways pilots and 40 per cent more than those at Lufthansa. As part of the preparation of the airline for a partial privatisation this autumn, the pilots have been asked to take a 15 per cent pay cut over three years. In return, they would be given shares in the part-floated company. The pilots say the demands are unacceptable; they claim shares in a part-privatised Air France are unlikely to be worth very much.

Moving around France is likely to become even more complicated later this week. Railway guards and the drivers of the locomotives which position carriages for passenger trains will be on strike on Friday and part of Saturday. Some small groups of railwaymen say they will strike during the five weeks of the World Cup itself but they are not regarded as a serious threat.

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هنا من الأصل

Middle East builds to a summer of hate

New oil is being poured on the smouldering fires of old enmities, writes Robert Fisk

IN JORDAN and Egypt, they are predicting an explosion by the autumn. In Lebanon, the betting is the detonation will occur in mid-summer. In Jerusalem, the Palestinians – and a large number of Israelis – fear the worst on an almost hourly basis. Palestinian-Israeli confrontations now occur several times daily – with almost the same frequency as they did during the *intifada* uprising that preceded the now-dead Oslo agreement. And still, incredibly, oil is being poured upon the fire.

The latest provocation against the Arabs has been the work of United States House speaker Newt Gingrich, whose flirtation with Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, has included a motorcade past the proposed site of an American embassy in Jerusalem – anathema to any peace-maker who believes that Jerusalem's future must be decided under the terms of the Oslo agreement – and an insistence that Israel, and only Israel, can decide how much occupied land should be returned to the Palestinians. Yasser Arafat, according to Mr Gingrich, is to blame for the virtual collapse of the "peace process".

This, of course, is news to the Europeans who are warning with ever more desperation that the Middle East is approaching disaster. The European Union itself is considering whether Israel should be blocked from all future trade concessions with Europe because of its settlements policy – EU diplomats were outraged to find that produce arriving in Europe from the ever-growing Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza was being labelled "made in Israel" – while President Jacques Chirac has been infuriated by Mr Netanyahu's rejection of his offer of a "Saviours of Peace" conference, launched with Egyptian



A man hurling a bottle as Palestinians crouch behind a car under Israeli fire during past riots in Ramallah; confrontations now occur several times a day, and both sides fear the worst. Photograph: Abbas Mounani

to force Israel to accept a 13 per cent withdrawal from occupied Arab land.

All the while, the State Department and the US press talk about "putting the peace process back on track", the tiredest and most untruthful metaphor in recent Middle East history. And still American journalists refuse to explain how or why the "peace process" has collapsed. Indeed, only last week, Richard Cohen was telling *Washington Post* readers that "on any given day, it looks as if a deal can be reached".

Could anything be further from the truth? Subconsciously, perhaps, the world is beginning to understand the nature of the nightmare scenario confronting the Middle East.

Hitherto, it has been a habit to distance Arab populations from their dictators when attacking Arab countries – before bombing their cities, Presidents Reagan and Bush respectively assured Libyans and Iraqis that Washington had no argument with them personally. It was an acknowledgement of the lack of democracy in the Arab world. Now, oddly, this same practice is being applied to Israel: we are repeatedly told how many Israelis disagree with Mr Netanyahu, how many American Jews dissociate themselves from the Israeli government's policies – as if the Netanyahu cabinet is an Arab-style dictatorship rather than the much-trumpeted democracy Israel always claims to be. In this way, the West, too, may be preparing itself for another conflict in the Middle East, one from which the Israeli people are already absolved. In the Arab world, the fear is simpler: that Mr Netanyahu and his government are trying to provoke a war that will prove Oslo is dead, and that the Arabs will be blamed. They can be sure of the second.

President Mubarak in Paris two weeks ago.

The Israeli army has already staged a computer projection of the violence which could soon break out on the West Bank and Gaza. Another wicked suicide bomb by a Palestinian might provide the Netanyahu cabinet with a reason to re-take West Bank towns – in a search, no doubt, for "terrorists" – where they would be confronted by Mr Arafat's armed policemen. Already, Israeli "intelligence sources" (for which read the Israeli army's chief of staff) have been telling the *Jerusalem Post* that Mr Arafat may have been

smuggling rocket-propelled grenades – "even missiles" – through a series of tunnels linking Gaza to Egypt.

This fantasy – all the odder since Israel itself insisted on controlling the Palestine-Egyptian border beneath which this subterranean burrowing has supposedly taken place – helps to set the stage for the battle to come. Even history is being re-written with this apparent aim. When in 1996, Israeli artillerymen slaughtered 106 Lebanese refugees sheltering in a United Nations position at Qana in southern Lebanon, they claimed they were shooting at Hizbollah gun-

men at least 600 feet from the UN barracks. Last month, however, Israel's representative at the UN, Zvi Cohen, claimed, untruthfully, that the Hizbollah had been using the UN position as "their headquarters". This astonishing and mendacious statement went unchallenged. If Mr Cohen actually meant what he said, however, the implications are appalling – that Israel deliberately fired at the UN compound, something it has hitherto always denied. What will happen to the UN soldiers north of the Israeli border if the expected conflict spreads to Lebanon? Israeli officers involved in the

end-of-peace computer projection in the West Bank say that there would be massive bloodshed, with hundreds, perhaps thousands, dead. Yet Mr Arafat is still, according to Israel, not doing enough to "crack down on terrorism", even though the PLO leader has detained at least 70 Hamas members since 29 March (the day on which the Hamas leader Muhi al-Din al-Sharif was mysteriously killed) – most of whom, according to Amnesty International, were cruelly tortured by the PLO in prisons in Ramallah and Jericho. At least 12 men have been murdered in Palestinian custody

– all held for questioning about "threats to Israel's security" – though not a word of criticism of this appalling abuse of human rights has come from the US. Nor about Israel's now overt decision to hold 22 Lebanese as hostages in return for information about the fate of missing Israeli servicemen. Of these 22, one has been held for 12 years; originally imprisoned in the notorious Khiam jail by Israel's proxy Lebanese militia allies, Ali Hussein Ali Ammar was then secretly – and illegally, under international law – transferred to Israel where he was sentenced to four-and-a-half years for

"membership of an illegal organisation" and military training inside Lebanon.

When he was due for release in 1991, he was put under "administrative detention" and Israel admits that he and the other 21 Lebanese are now held solely as "bargaining chips".

American cowardice – in the face of the immensely powerful Jewish lobby in the US – has produced a situation in which Washington remains supinely silent while Mr Netanyahu, according to the Israeli paper *Yediot Ahronot*, threatens to "burn Washington", should President Bill Clinton attempt

Prince Abdullah on summit mission

THE Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah arrived in Jordan yesterday for talks aimed at resolving differences between key Arab leaders in relation to the proposed summit on the Middle East peace process. Abdullah came from Dam-

ascus where he met at least twice with Syrian President Hafez Assad to persuade him to accept an open agenda at the summit, Arab diplomats said. A similar demand has been made by Jordan and some Gulf nations. But all agree that the

summit should forge a unified Arab position against Israel. Talaat Hamid, spokesman for the 22-member Arab League, said in Cairo that consultations are under way between Arab leaders about the time and place for the summit.

An Egyptian weekly newspaper reported that Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Egypt have all offered to host the summit. The meeting was proposed by the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat following the breakdown of peace talks with Israel.

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هكذا من الأصل

Ex-president's sex trial grips Zimbabwe

THE APPER green "Chairman Mao" suit spoke of his days as radical black liberation leader. The walking stick painted with the Zimbabwean national colours of red, green, black and gold piqued up memories of African despots such as Hastings Banda of Malawi. And the chauffeur-driven purple Mercedes Benz that bore former president Canaan Banana and his wife Janet to the Harare High Court yesterday suggested a confidence only slightly compromised by effrontery.

Even the charges against the former Methodist minister and theology professor, it was just as well that Mr Banana was putting on a brave face. For the former Zimbabwean president is being tried on 11 charges of sodomy, attempted sodomy and indecent assault, in a country where the current President, Robert Mugabe, has done his best to whip up anti-homosexual feeling to a fever pitch.

his personal anti-gay vendetta Mr Mugabe has frequently described his targets as lower than animals. "If dogs and pigs don't do it, why must human beings? Can human beings be human beings if they do worse than pigs?" he asked his audience at a Harare book fair.

A mortuary of pathological lies and a malicious vendetta of vilification'

In August. He prevented the Gay and Lesbian Association of Zimbabwe exhibiting at the fair, dismissing them as an "association of sodomists and sexual perverts".

The first of the 40 or so witnesses the state is calling to give evidence was Jetha Dube, during whose trial last year the allegations of Mr Banana's behaviour first emerged. Dube was accused of murdering a fellow policeman, and in mitigation he told the court that his victim had taunted him by calling him "Banana's wife". The court accepted Dube's explanation as mitigating circumstances, sentenced him to 10 years for the murder, and ordered a police inquiry into the allegations against Mr Banana.

Dube yesterday told the court how the former president had led on a game of cards, alcohol and ballroom music at State House before the first attack.

"He invited me to dinner. He offered me whisky, we played cards. He offered to teach me ballroom music and during the dance he was pressing his erect penis against me. He gave me

Canaan Banana is accused of sodomy. Mugabe's rhetoric won't help, writes James Roberts

a French kiss before I broke away from him," Dube said.

Dube said that during the second attack, also at State House, Banana had given him a soft drink, Fanta, which he suspected was spiked with drugs.

"I felt dizzy after a while. Then he was all over me, kissing and removing my clothes. I woke up the next morning on the carpet, with semen on my buttocks and thighs," he said. "When I got home, I wept at the attack and I have suffered since then," he added, saying Mr Banana intimidated him often.

Dube said he was detained for three days in 1984 when he dodged Mr Banana's advances.

In court last year, describing the incident in which he thought his drink had been spiked, Dube told how he awoke at dawn, on the carpet, trouserless but covered by a duvet. Mr Banana was standing over him, half-naked and smiling. "We have helped ourselves," he is alleged to have said to Dube.

Out of court Mr Banana has dismissed all suggestions he is homosexual as "a mortuary of pathological lies and a malicious vendetta of vilification and character assassination".

A number of allegations have also been made by former members of Mr Banana's football team, the State House Tornados. Mr Banana was the team's patron and chief fundraiser, and used to train with the players on their home pitch, in the presidential palace grounds.

As president of the Zimbabwean Football Association, he attended every game at the national stadium, and greeted all the players after the match. This custom came to a humiliating end when he walked on to the pitch to meet the players, to be roundly booed by the crowd.

Police investigations have also attracted scores of complaints from past and present students at the University of Zimbabwe where Mr Banana was professor of theology. According to a fellow professor, Mr Banana was a regular visitor to the students' hostel after dark, and on at least one occasion was chased out of the hostel at three in the morning by the students.

The chief state prosecutor, Augustine Chikumba, yesterday insisted that the former head of state had abused his authority in his homosexual assaults.

"Taking advantage of his position, he coaxed a number of men into sexual activities which they did not approve and which they resisted," Mr Chikumba

said. "In relation to some of the complainants, [if] his overtures were turned down ... he would cause them to be penalised under the guise that they had committed acts of misconduct."

The state's witnesses include Vice President Simon Muzenda and some former army and police chiefs. Mr Banana is calling 10 witnesses in his defence, including his wife, Janet.

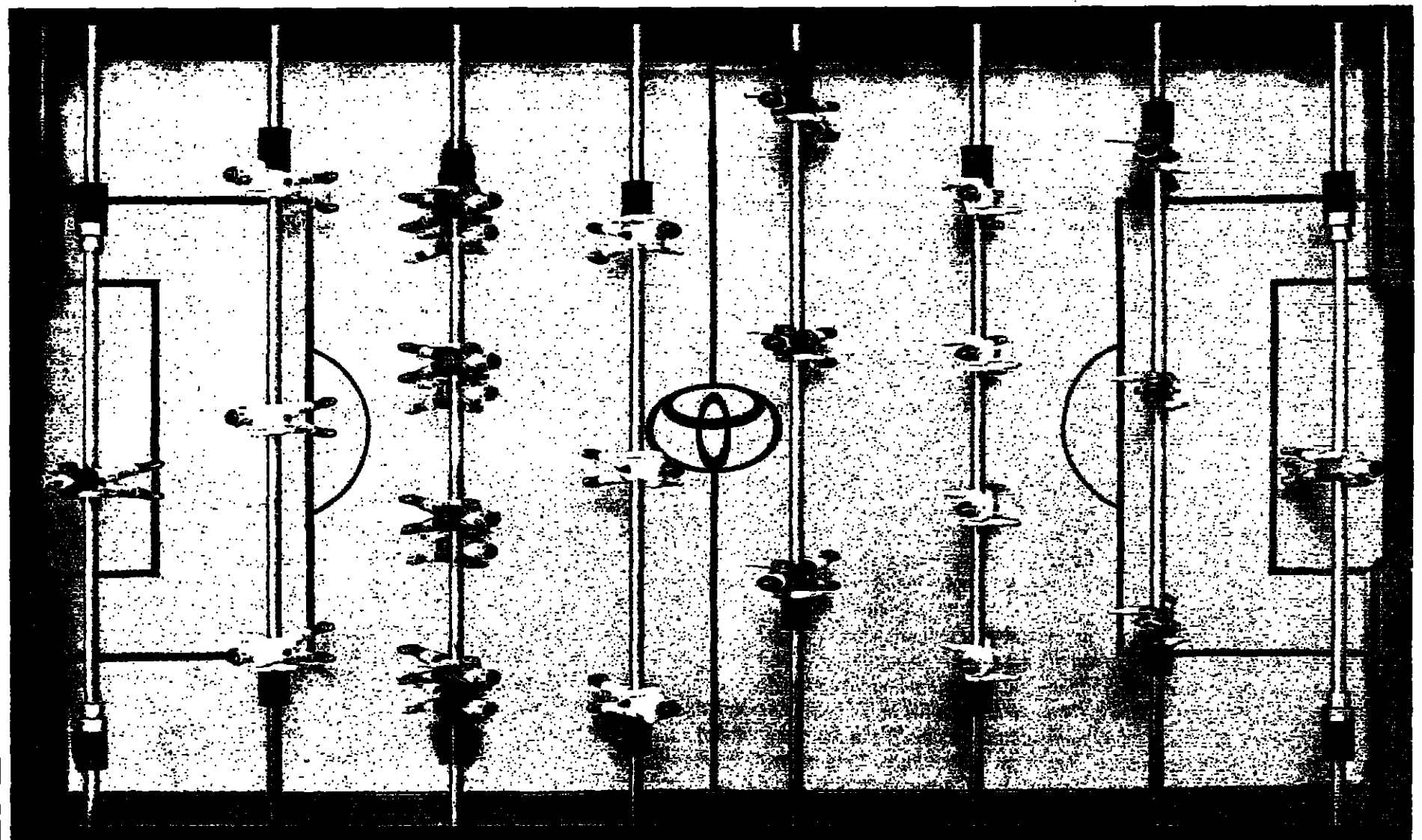
The former president held office from 1980 - the year of Zimbabwe's independence - to 1987 when the then prime minister Robert Mugabe became executive president.

The case continues today.



Canaan Banana, the former president of Zimbabwe, arriving with his wife, Janet, at the High Court in Harare yesterday. Mr Banana is facing 11 charges of sodomy and indecent assault. Photograph: Howard Burditt/Reuters

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Botha blamed for killings

AN OFFICIAL of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission yesterday indirectly blamed former President PW Botha for the killings of black activists during the apartheid era.

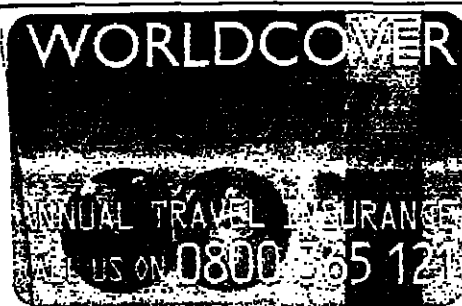
Mr Botha is on trial for ignoring a summons to appear before the Truth Commission, which is investigating human rights abuses during apartheid. But the trial - the first of a former South African head of state - has focused on Mr Botha's role as chairman of the State Security Council, which co-ordinated security crackdowns on black liberation groups.

— AP, George

Swiss help for Hitler's army

A REPORT by United States government historians concludes that much of the gold looted by the Nazis went through the Swiss National Bank in Switzerland to pay other neutral nations for supplies that sustained Hitler's army in the final years of World War Two, the *New York Times* reported.

The newspaper said the report, published today, doubles to \$300m - now worth \$2.6bn (£1.6bn) - the US estimate of how much gold was held in a Nazi account that also received Holocaust victims' valuables. The report details the role that a large proportion of the gold played in securing Nazi war needs from Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Turkey. — Reuters, New York



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Einstein letters reveal liaison with Soviet spy

By David Osborne
in New York

NINE love letters that are to be sold at auction in New York later this month reveal a liaison that took place between Albert Einstein and a married Russian woman in the United States in the closing months of World War II that may have been a good deal more dangerous than the physicist ever realised.

All the letters were written by Einstein, the father of the theory of relativity, to Margarita Konenkova between 1945 and 1946. They have been passed on to Sotheby's, the auction house, by an unnamed relative of Konenkova. With other mementoes of the affair, they will be sold on 26 June.

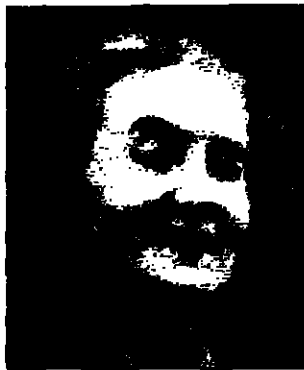
The missives reveal a man smitten with a woman who at the time was married to the Russian sculptor Sergei Konenkov. She had apparently also had an affair with Sergei Rachmaninov. Whether the relationship began before or after the death in 1936 of Einstein's second wife, Elsa, it is not clear.

Much more likely to stir fascination in the sale, however, are suggestions that Konenkova was a Russian spy and that introducing Einstein to Soviet diplomats in New York was part of her mission.

Konenkova's secret side was, according to the *New York Times*, uncovered first by Paul



Albert Einstein (above) had an affair with Russian spy Margarita Konenkova



Needham, a consultant to Sotheby's. Mr Needham stumbled on references to her in a 1995 book written by Soviet spy-master Pavel Sudoplatov and his son Anatoly, called *Special Tasks*.

Konenkova, the book suggests, had been directed by Moscow to pay special attention to the Manhattan Project.

Headed by scientists such as Robert Oppenheimer at a secret installation in the New Mexico desert called Los Alamos, the Manhattan Project was the cradle of America's atomic bomb.

According to *Special Tasks*, Konenkova was supposed to "influence Oppenheimer and other prominent American scientists who she met at Princeton". Princeton University was home at the time to Einstein. It is known that she succeeded in introducing Einstein to the Soviet consul in New York.

There is nothing in Einstein's letters, all written in German, to suggest that the author had any notion of Konenkova's role as a spy. And since Einstein had no direct role in the Manhattan Project, it seems improbable that he could have helped, consciously or otherwise, in Moscow's effort to build their own bomb.

Instead, the letters reveal a soppy side to Einstein that has barely been seen before. In one, dated 27 November 1945, he writes: "Just recently I washed my head by myself, but not with the greatest success; I am not as careful as you are. But everything here reminds me of you: 'Almar's' shawl, the dictionaries, the wonderful pipe that we thought was gone, and really all the many little things in my hermit's cell". "Almar", it is supposed, is an elision of the first names Albert and Margarita.



The town of Spencer, South Dakota, was likened to a war zone in the wake of Saturday's tornado, which left six people dead and 150 injured Photograph: Reuters

Twister sweeps in with deadly stealth

WITH a hurricane, at least, you usually have a little time - to tape the windows, bring the kennel in and get out of town. Tornadoes may be many thousand times smaller, but they are also infinitely more stealthy. The weather services try to get the warnings out, but pinpointing a twister is a difficult science, writes David Osborne in New York.

Ask the people of Spencer, South Dakota, who awoke on

Saturday morning to find their town all but obliterated. A quarter-mile-wide tornado swept into the tiny community at 8.32 pm on Friday; although a warning was issued 13 minutes earlier, almost no one had learnt of it in time.

On nights like that, it is often only the noise that announces the approach of a tornado. Everyone who has heard that noise describes it the same way: a freight

train coming. The Spencer tragedy left six residents dead and confirmed the 1998 tornado season as one of the deadliest in recent history. It brought the death toll since January from tornado strikes to 121, more than double the number killed in the whole of 1997 and 365 per cent greater than the 26 deaths recorded in 1996.

This year's death toll is certain to move past the 122 killed

in the US in 1984. The worst year in recent memory, however, was 1974, which ended with 315 people killed by tornadoes, many of whom perished during a "super-outbreak" when 148 tornadoes touched down in 14 states in 24 hours.

Although El Nino has been cited as a factor in this year's stormy season, it is unclear how much it has really been to blame. This is often the time of year

when most tornadoes strike, driven by collisions between warm, moist air moving up from the South and cold, dry air invading the US from Canada.

Another feature of this year, has been the unusually wide spread of tornado activity over the US. The storm system that struck Spencer, continued to spawn tornadoes in parts of New England not normally at risk, leaving 18 dead.

Poll paves way for Montenegro to loosen ties with Serbia

By Rupert Cornwell

PRESIDENT Slobodan Milosevic has suffered a heavy blow to his waning authority over what remains of the old Yugoslavia, with the decisive victory of reformist progressives in

Sunday's parliamentary elections in Serbia's smaller sister republic of Montenegro.

With almost all the vote counted, the reformist coalition of Montenegro's President Milo Djukanovic had won almost 50 per cent - giving it an outright

majority of at least 40 seats in the 78-seat assembly in the capital Podgorica. Its main opponent, the socialist party led by the Milosevic protégé Momir Bulatovic, is likely to finish with some 36 per cent of the vote and no more than 31 seats,

with the remainder going to a variety of smaller parties. Most significantly the election appears to have been fair by Yugoslav standards, with observers from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) deeming it

a "significant improvement" on earlier polls.

The result seems certain to see Montenegro putting further distance between itself and the repressive nationalist regime in Belgrade, now embroiled in conflict with Albanian sepa-

ratists in the tinderbox southern Serbian province of Kosovo.

Montenegro had shown "the wisdom, courage and resolve to resist those who had decided to enslave it", Mr Djukanovic told his jubilant supporters yesterday - vowing that his republic would

not only move towards Europe, but take Serbia with it.

The boast is not entirely idle. Technically, the Montenegrin and Serbian parliaments have an equal number of representatives in the upper house of the federal Yugoslav

parliament in Belgrade which elects Mr Milosevic. The latter's trump card however could be the role of Mr Bulatovic as federal prime minister, in which capacity he could order a clampdown in Montenegro if Mr Milosevic decided it was his only option.

executive privilege, leaving Mr Clinton the chance of appealing. Mr Starr had asked the US Supreme Court to make an urgent ruling, thus bypassing the appeals process. Reports yesterday said that the President was expected to drop the appeal.

Clinton aides set to testify over Lewinsky

BILL CLINTON last night cleared the way for two top aides to testify in the investigation into his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, writes Andrew Marshall in Washington.

The President was effectively conceding another legal reverse

in the fight to clear his name over allegations of witness-tampering. Mr Clinton tried to claim that his conversations with Bruce Lindsey and Sidney Blumenthal were covered by executive privilege. But he has been outmanoeuvred by Kenneth Starr, the indepen-

dent counsel. Mr Starr is investigating claims that Mr Clinton had an affair with former White House intern Ms Lewinsky, 24, and that he and his advisors persuaded her to lie about it.

A US judge ruled that the aides were not covered by ex-

ecutive privilege, leaving Mr Clinton the chance of appealing. Mr Starr had asked the US Supreme Court to make an urgent ruling, thus bypassing the appeals process. Reports yesterday said that the President was expected to drop the appeal.



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Helen and Craig have made a pilgrimage to Preston. They're part of the fastest growing congregation in the world

AS congregations in the Church of England collapse to an all-time low, the Mormons – officially known as Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, appear to be going forth and multiplying far more effectively. The number of practising Mormons in Britain has risen from 6,500 in the mid-Fifties to 180,000 today. Worldwide membership of the church has topped the 10 million mark.

The Mormon church was founded in 1830 in New York State. Missionaries came to Britain in 1837 and preached their first sermon in Preston, Lancashire and it was only in the late 1840s that they trekked to Salt Lake Valley in Utah, now the church's international headquarters. Mormons place a big emphasis on missionary work – nearly 1,600 missionaries serve in Britain – and on the family as a basic unit of society. Family relationships, they believe, continue into eternity.

Now Preston is the focus again. Next Sunday, 7 June, the Latter-Day Saints, as they prefer to be called, will dedicate their second largest temple in the world. Not in Utah, but in Chorley, just outside Preston. For the past two weeks, it has been open house at the new temple. More than 100,000 visitors stepped inside before it was closed forever to the uninitiated. About half were paid-up members of the Mormon church (no pun intended, but members pay ten per cent of their income to the church.)

Among the visitors were American descendants of the first missionaries. The rest of the visitors had come out of curiosity, to feast their eyes on the interior of a building which is rumoured to have cost between £50m and £100m.

"The baptismal font will blow your socks off, I promise you. There's been nothing like it since the Temple of Solomon," promised Bryan Grant, who became a Mormon

By Clare Garner

30 years ago after a missionary knocked on his door.

The 35-carat gold trumpeting angel at the top of the temple's steeple can be seen from miles around. The building itself bears down on motorists whizzing along the M61 below, a testament to the growth of the church, particularly locally.

"The church in Chorley has doubled in the last year," said Mr Gould, now the church's director of public affairs. "There are 280 worshippers each Sunday. They're going to have to divide the ward into two congregations. Over the last quarter of a century we have opened a new congregation somewhere

'The font will blow your socks off. There's been nothing like it since the Temple of Solomon'

in Britain every two to three weeks, and a new chapel every six weeks."

It is rare for a state or country to have more than one Mormon temple. But the temple in Preston is the UK's second (the first is at Lingfield in Surrey).

Regular Anglican church attendance has diminished by more than half in 50 years – dipping below 1 million for the first time in 1996. "The churches feel a little bit threatened by the success of the Mormons and so like to perpetuate the stereotypes," said Mr Gould. "People like to think we've been here 10 minutes and we're all Americans."

Don't you believe it. There was an abundance of Mor-

mons with British accents in the queue last week. Take, for example, Margaret Bridges, a 47-year-old civil servant from Bristol, who converted seven months ago. "Three weeks after I found out about the church I joined, and three weeks after that I was baptised. It was the best move I've ever made," she enthused. "I just knew I had to join. I went in, saying my first prayer and singing my first hymn, and thought: 'I've got to do this'."

Ms Bridges was brought up in the Church of England, but never felt inclined to pursue that faith. "The Mormon church is not so much a church as a way of life," she said. "It's not something you do for an hour on a Sunday. You get up with it on Monday morning and go to bed with it on Sunday night."

Since becoming a Mormon, Ms Bridges has felt much calmer. "Everybody looks after each other," she said. "You all live by the same rules so you know this lady [pointing to the woman standing next to her] will be doing exactly what I'm doing."

Mormons are law-abiding citizens, who follow a health code which forbids stimulants such as tea, coffee, alcohol, harmful drugs and tobacco. They attend weekly services on Sundays in a chapel, also the venue for other religious activities. Their temples are reserved for special ceremonies. It is here that family members are "sealed together", not just for this life but for "time and eternity". It is also where they perform baptisms, saving their ancestors retrospectively.

Heather Fell, 47, from Scunthorpe, had come for the day with her children and grandchildren. "I think it's the way the family lives," she said. "Families are very important because, to us, we're going to be with them for eternity."

Some visitors, like Philippa Dunn, 16, from Blackburn,



Helen and Craig are among the tens of thousands of visitors to have travelled to the new temple to marvel at the baptismal font (centre right) and the Celestial Room (bottom right)

emerged none the wiser. "All I knew is that they wear suits and are American, and I don't know much more now," she said. "It's more like a hotel than a church. All those chandeliers. It's not really religious. The way you look around, it's like a state-ly home."

Helen Sadler, 17, took the day off college to visit the temple with her Mormon boyfriend, Craig Collier, 19, a funeral director, whom she met a year ago. Whenever she accompanies Craig to church she says, she feels that: "I want to be a part of this. I want some of that goodness."

The tour of the temple, not least the lavish Bride's Room, impressed her. "Magnificent is an understatement," she said. "It really brings home to you that the most important thing is your family and home and the love you have there." Craig was keen to point out that, should they get married, Helen would be his only wife. Many people think that Mormons are polygamous, but the practice was brought to an end in 1890.

Mr Gould believes the reason that the Mormon faith is expanding is "all about families" – the conventional, nuclear

ones, that is. Monday evenings are set aside worldwide for "family home" evenings. Couples have their marriage vows "extended for eternity" in the "Sealing Room". One of 150 rooms in the temple, it has multiple mirrors to "give the feeling of eternity". "This to me is the pinnacle of the temple," explained Mr



Gould. "It's a family factory, where families are made."

The fabled baptismal font is in the basement, to symbolise death and rebirth. With changing rooms, lockers, tiled floors and marble surfaces, the area is reminiscent of an upmarket health spa. The font rests on the backs of 12 marble oxen, symbolically representing the 12

tribes of Israel. Here Mormons perform baptisms on behalf of their ancestors. "We admit we don't know whether our great, great grandfather wants to be baptised," said Mr Gould, "but we do it as a labour of love."

Mr Gould spoke with pride of the materials: the American cherry wood, the crystal chandeliers from Austria, the font

A session lasts two hours and includes instruction on "the three great questions of life" – where did I come from? why am I here? where am I going?

Armed with the answers, the Mormons proceed from the Endowment Room to the Celestial Room where they can "ponder the purpose of life" in an ambience designed to give

'The Mormon church is a way of life – not just something you do for an hour on Sunday'

a feeling of "going into the presence of God". This requires a 300kg chandelier, a plush honey-coloured carpet, lemon yellow leather, and artificial pale pink roses adorning the side tables. Silence prevails.

James Beckford, Professor of Sociology at the University of Warwick, who has made specialised studies of religious

movements and the public's reaction to them, believes that the combination of efficient marketing and its emphasis on family life accounts for the growth of Mormonism.

"Someone coming cold to the Mormon religion is offered a ready-made, friendly, community atmosphere where they can simply slot in and everyone shakes their hand and is nice to them. It's seductive and some people respond well to that very direct marketing approach. I think Mormon evangelists do what people who have taken courses in salesmanship and marketing do. But that is not say they are not doing it sincerely."

"It is the kind of religion in which all members of the family are expected to participate. It's an all-purpose community. Mormons like to have sing-songs around the piano. They do all the things that, if you read the community studies of British village life in the pre-war period, we used to do."

Asked whether the world was soon going to be taken over by Mormons, Mr Grant replied swiftly: "2036. We've worked it out. Well, that's if we continue at this rate."

'If I'd abandoned science, I'd have given up my childhood dream'

The time: 1991
The place: Natal, South Africa
The man: Simon Singh, author of Fermat's Last Theorem

"WALKING on to the plane for South Africa was the first time I had ever been really frightened of how whites would treat me. I'd never thought of it growing up as an Indian in Somerset."

Nelson Mandela had just been released and I got involved with an organisation that was trying to help with education and development. I'd spent the last six years hidden in a lab, one of which was 500m under a mountain in Geneva, doing nothing but science – and had no idea what else I was capable of. Twenty-six is the age where you start asking what you want to do with the rest of your life. This was my time out to think.

South Africa was still a very turbulent country with the

ANC fighting the Zulu party. The Group Areas Act – coloureds, Indians and whites living in different areas – was still in place. Up until that moment I had been politically naïve about issues of race. Somerset is very cosy and comfortable; my family had been there since the Fifties and we'd been made very welcome. In science, race is not an issue. All that matters is whether you can do the work.

Fortunately, by the time I landed, the government made a statement that the Group Areas Act would be repealed, so I could live with my colleagues. However, I was still worried what people would think of me mixing with white people in the white township. Especially when I shared accommodation with two white women teachers. In England nobody would look twice, but in South Africa, inter-racial relationships were still taboo. Any ex-

cuse to cause trouble was taken advantage of.

Each day we would enter the Zulu homelands to teach at three of their schools. To start off with, everybody stared at me, the Zulus were convinced I was white because I was taller and lighter-skinned than the South African Indians.

The teaching was very old fashioned with everything by rote, so when I wrote on the blackboard, the pupils would just copy it down. Unfortunately the majority often did not understand elementary ideas, like how a pendulum swings, because they had missed out on chunks of education. It was hard work but I loved seeing students' eyes light up when something clicked.

While they were learning, I was beginning to learn about myself. Teaching allowed me to clear my head, and ask not only whether I wanted to continue with my esoteric and abstract branch of pure science but



Simon Singh: Breaking down prejudices

more importantly: am I good enough? I wasn't sure that I could make a real contribution; there are only a few pioneers who break down frontiers while everybody else fills in the gaps. I thought: if you can't do

something great, what is the point? For example, I have never been to a dinner party because I don't know what to say or how to behave – and if I'm not very good at something, I don't like doing it. More im-

portantly, I wanted to do something that only I could do. I knew that if I stayed in physics there were lots of people who could fill my shoes. It was a real dilemma. All my life I had wanted to do fundamental science, at eight when my sister asked my ambition, I replied 'to be a nuclear physicist', so to abandon that completely was giving up a dream.

I found the solution through one of my Zulu pupils. He had no concept of basic arithmetic, although 16, and couldn't even cope with negative numbers. I can still picture exactly where he sat in my bare classroom. I decided that, whatever happened, I would get through to him, and what's more, I would set a test and he would get 100 per cent. So while his classmates had their breaks, we would sit down together and go over everything again and again.

Finally, I set my test, the last question was asked and they'd

swapped papers to mark each other's work. Holding my breath, I went through the register collecting the results and called out his name: Blessed Sibisi, and he had 10 out of 10. From that single moment I knew I could teach and, more important, had the patience.

In my book, when Wiles solves Fermat's Last Theorem, it is the high point of his life – it is ecstasy and, as a scientist, unbeatable. I also loved just understanding, communicating and breaking down the natural prejudices people have towards science.

Returning home, I decided to take my talent for teaching onto a bigger scale and apply for jobs in the media. On hearing that I had a job with the BBC, I leapt up and spiked a light bulb with my hair. I could smell my hair burning and I was covered in glass, but was thrilled at the opportunity. Sikhs are not particularly

philosophical people, we do well in business, the military and the professions – so particle physics seemed a little airy-fairy. My grandfather and father were both farmers, and although my parents respected my choices, they did not understand the point. But going into television was something they could appreciate. Making them proud was certainly a motivation.

Writing my book is, hopefully, also my way of leaving my mark. It is a beautiful synthesis of being able to teach, but I also get to be taught myself by the greatest mathematician in the world. I have a lot to thank South Africa for: I discovered not just what I wanted to do but also why I am the way I am."

Simon Singh's book, *Fermat's Last Theorem*, is now out in paperback at £6.99

Interview by Andrew G Marshall

Hidden truths behind healing hands

Complementary medicine is a boom industry, but media hype has often exaggerated the benefits and ignored a lack of hard scientific evidence to support its claims. By Edzard Ernst

WHEN, five years ago, I was appointed as Britain's first (and still only) Professor of Complementary Medicine, I noticed the lively media interest in the subject.

Much of what was being reported on the subject seemed to stem from an extreme 'pro' or an extreme 'contra' position. I decided then to stay out of 'media battles' and focus on discussions in scientific publications. Now I am about to make an exception to this rule.

Why? The reason is simply that, in my view, the debate has gradually become ill-informed, misleading and seriously unbalanced.

Three examples can be given to substantiate this view: over the last eight months we have seen a Channel 4 television series *Natural Born Healers*; a *Sunday Times* series by Hazel Courtney (Health Journalist of the Year) 'What's the Alternative'; a five-part supplement 'Healing, A-Z Guide to Complementary Medicine' in the *Times*.

All three major media events rely heavily on reporting anecdotes of miracle cures in support of what I feel compelled to call a seriously biased view.

So, what is wrong with anecdotes? My grandmother smoked 20 cigarettes per day all her adult life and never had lung cancer. Does that mean that smoking does not cause lung cancer? No, it does not.

Anecdotes are uniquely uninformative, even dangerous when it comes to generalisable matters of health.

Historically, in medicine, we have struggled to get away from testimonials or anecdotes. Exactly 50 years ago, the randomised controlled trial was introduced as the gold standard to find out whether a given therapy is effective or not.

With this tool, we are now able to differentiate between specific therapeutic effects and non-specific (e.g. placebo effects, natural history of the disease) effects and can furthermore

determine whether one particular treatment is better than another.

Testimonials or anecdotes, as produced so often by those who promote complementary medicine, are a significant step backwards in our endeavour to approach the truth.

If we accept them in support of complementary medicine and reject them for orthodox medicine we would *de facto* have introduced double standards into the evaluation of healthcare.

And what is wrong with promoting complementary medicine?

Nothing at all, except that promotion of this type should be based on reliable evidence and not on anecdote.

Promoting medical treatments differs significantly from, for instance, promoting the sale of cars. But, even if you were about to buy a car, you would probably rely on evidence.

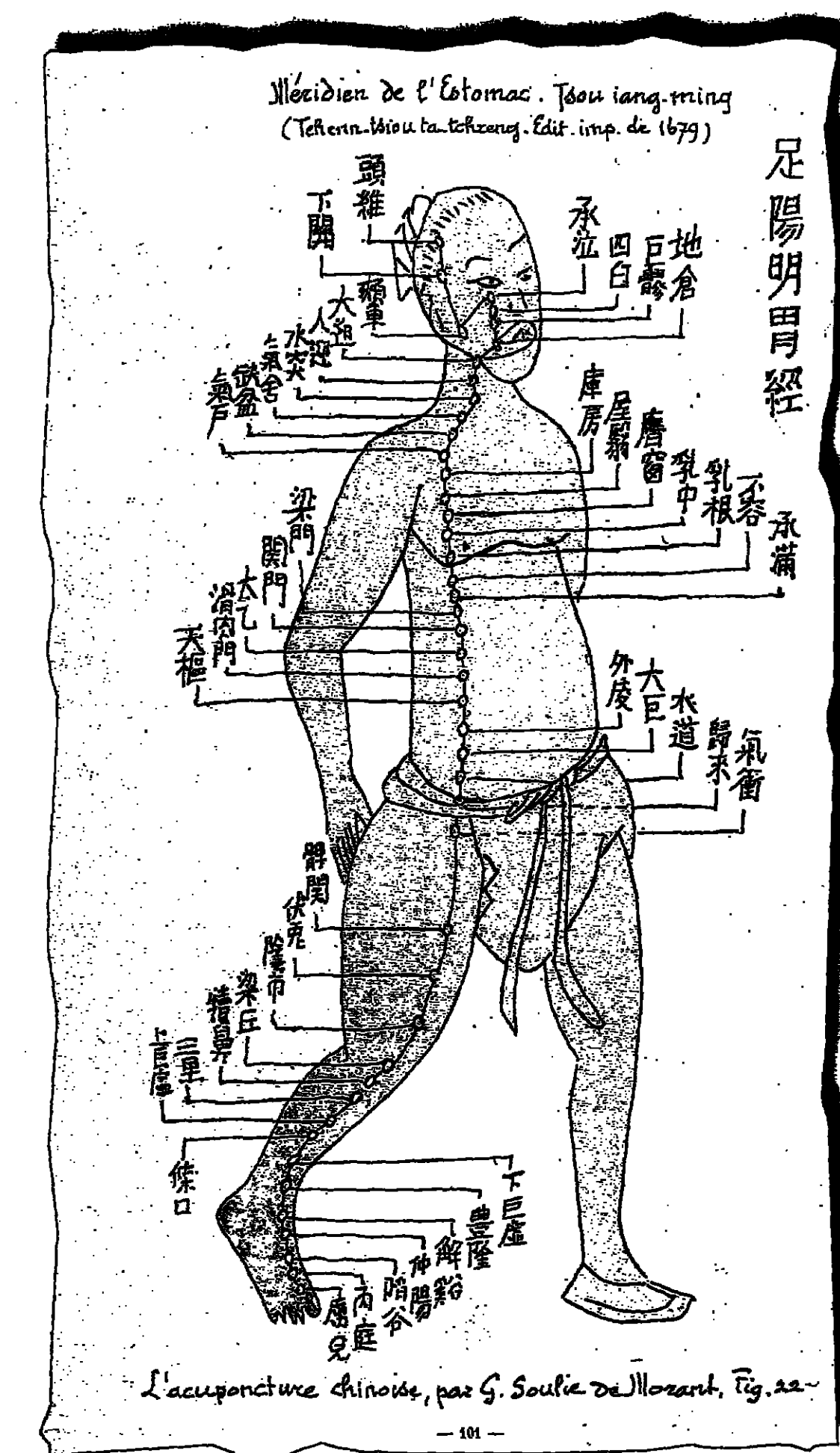
The two questions you would be likely to ask (both in relation to a car and a given therapy) are, does it work and is it safe? Testimonials (of car dealers, customers or therapists) will not take you far in finding reliable answers.

It is simply common sense that, with health matters, one ought to be doubly cautious and extra critical.

The recent press coverage of complementary medicine is neither. It dulls our common sense to follow emotion rather than reason, testimonials rather than science.

There are, of course, those who claim that complementary medicine is special, so special that it defies testing through science.

I suspect this argument is the result of misconceptions as to what science is about. If, in the present context, science means the evaluation of treatments through randomised controlled trials, the notion that science cannot be applied to complementary medicine is false. In the area of complementary medicine, about 1,000 scientific studies have been published world-wide. This, I think, should be sufficient evidence to show



An 18th century Chinese diagram showing acupuncture pressure points

Photograph: Mary Evans

that complementary medicine can be tested scientifically.

And what are the results of these studies? Invariably they are complex and prohibit generalisations.

They show that some complementary treatments are effective for certain conditions; they show that some treatments are not effective. They show that for some treatments the evidence is contradictory and insufficient for a final verdict.

They show that some complementary therapies are not entirely free of side effects. And they show that some complementary therapies have not been properly evaluated at all (see below).

Thus there never will be simple and reliable messages such as those recently favoured by British media.

But does the attitude of the media matter at all? Biased media coverage of complementary medicine, as increasingly seen in Britain, may cause serious damage on several levels.

Paradoxically, perhaps, it will damage complementary medicine itself.

Giving the impression that most of complementary medicine is well-established hinders the planning, funding and execution of urgently needed research. Misguided media reports could also turn out to be damaging to our society at large.

Last week the Prince of Wales hosted a conference in London on the integration of complementary medicine into the NHS. If integration comes before proper evaluation, there is a very definite danger of financial loss to our already squeezed healthcare budgets.

Most importantly, biased media coverage has a real potential for harming the consumer. He or she may be led to believe that a given type of therapy is safe and effective while the truth could be that, at present, we actually do not know that.

Complementary medicine is certainly a "hot" subject. It is also too

important to be misused by those who merely want to "warm their hands". If we are to progress in this area, we must not allow any bypassing of rigorous research. We need to fill in the substantial gaps in our present knowledge.

The very minimum would be to make sure that the benefits of a given complementary treatment for a given medical condition outweigh the risks. To achieve this aim, we need an open-minded approach, expertise, co-operation, time, funds and last, but not least, responsible support from the press.

These are studies where patients are allocated at random to two or more groups treated by different methods, and subsequently compared in terms of pre-defined clinical outcomes.

The author is Professor of Complementary Medicine at the Postgraduate Medical School, University of Exeter

The alternative is compromise

Continued from last week... Mr Bourner has active tuberculosis. Dr Thornton wants him to take a shedload of powerful antibiotics for six months. Mr Bourner wants to heal himself with the help of Mrs Linton and her parapsychical healing energy. Now read on...



DR PHIL HAMMOND

"And how was Mrs Linton today?"
"Very helpful, doctor."
"I'm sorry I said spiritual healing was rubbish."

"And so you should be. She's a very gifted lady. Knows tons about TB too."

"Such as?"

"Well, you told me it was a purely physical thing. The bacteria are very hard for the body's immune system to digest and you need to take these poisonous drugs..."

"Powerful drugs..."

"Whatever. You need to swallow all these chemicals to get better."

"That's true enough."

"But it isn't, is it? You're completely overlooking the important part the mind can play in manipulating the body's immune response."

"What rubbish has she been feeding you now?"

"It's not rubbish. It's psychoneuroimmunology."

"Oh really?"

"Yes. And there's a mountain of evidence that once you get tuberculosis, whether it spreads or whether your body holds it in check depends a lot on your mental state. If you're stressed and depressed like I was, holed up in that disgusting NHS hospital, the TB gets the upper hand. But now I'm out and happy and surrounded by positive healing energy. I'm getting better without the help of drugs."

"I've never heard such rubbish."

"You should read *The Sickness Mind* by Paul Martin. Pub. Flamingo. ISBN 0-00-655022-3."

"There's obviously nothing wrong with your memory."

"Sir Peter Medawar, the Nobel Prize winning immunologist, said TB is 'an affliction in which a psychosomatic element is admitted even by those who contemptuously dismiss it in the context of any other ailment'. In the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, when physicians actually took time to observe their patients meticulously, a cause of TB was said to be 'a long and grievous passion of the mind'. Then there was *spec phthisica*."

"You what?"

"The concept of the tuberculosis-prone personality. The artistic temperament. Why do you think all those nineteenth-century luvvies gave into consumption if it wasn't for an excess of aesthetic emotion?"

"Because they all crammed into the same garret and coughed all over each other."

"So you don't believe your

mind has any effect at all on your body?"

"Of course it has some effect. People often die from cancer or heart disease when they lose a loved one or retire. I'm just saying, remember 1882?"

"Why?"

"Robert Koch discovered the real cause of TB. *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*."

"Yes. And all you scientists suddenly forget about the importance of emotional factors in illness and became obsessed with bacteria in your indecent haste to discover antibiotics and earn billions for the evil pharmaceutical giants."

"I think you're being a little unfair. The drugs industry has been responsible for some great advances."

"Well, you would say that, wouldn't you? You're all in their pocket."

"Look, I'm not interested in your slander. I just want you to get better."

"What would you have done in the days before drugs?"

"Packed you away to get lots of fresh air and sunshine."

"And did anyone get better?"

"Yes. But lots died. Between the 17th and 19th centuries, TB was one of the biggest killers of all. It's still one of the major causes of death in Third World countries and disturbing pockets are appearing in the UK amongst the homeless and those who are HIV positive."

"Yeah, but I've got a home, I'm HIV negative, I eat well and I'm seeing a healer. So I could survive without drugs."

"True. But you could infect more vulnerable people on the way."

"I'll just try not to cough on anyone."

"What if we celebrate a fantastic union of conventional and complementary? You take the drugs to kill the bugs and use Mrs Linton and her healing energy to protect you from side-effects."

"Will it work?"

"I don't see why not - if healing's as powerful as you say."

"What a splendid idea. I'll start immediately."

"Praise the Lord."

The diagnosis is... misleading

1. Examples of effective complementary treatments (1)

* St John's Wort (hypericum), used in herbal medicine, alleviates the symptoms of mild-to-moderate depression and is associated with fewer short-term side effects than conventional drugs.

* Acupuncture reduces back pain, dental pain and nausea (e.g. morning sickness).

* Ginkgo biloba, a herbal treatment, delays the clinical deterioration of patients with Alzheimer's disease.

2. Examples of forms of complementary medicine that have been shown to be ineffective (1)

* Acupuncture is no better than a sham as a help in smoking cessation or reduction of weight.

* Iridology, diagnosis through the study of the iris, is not a valid diagnostic tool.

* Chelation therapy, a vitamin infusion to cleanse the body of toxins, has been shown to be no better than placebo for circulatory problems in the leg.

3. Examples of complementary treatments where, contrary to general beliefs, the evidence is inconclusive or insufficient (1)

* Chiropractic treatment has not convincingly been shown to be more effective than conventional treatments for acute or chronic low back pain (nor for any other medical condition).

* Acupuncture has not convincingly been

shown to be effective for arthritis or asthma.

* Hypnotherapy has not convincingly been shown to be more useful than standard therapies as an aid for smoking cessation.

4. Examples of complementary therapies which are associated with serious health risks.

* Chiropractic treatment can result in vascular damage (e.g. stroke) in an unknown number of cases.

* Acupuncture has been associated with serious internal injuries (e.g. collapsed lungs) and infections (e.g. hepatitis).

* Chelation therapy, colonic irrigation, certain diets (e.g. macrobiotic) have been linked to serious complications.

* Several herbal remedies are known to be toxic and can cause liver damage, others (e.g. Ayurvedic and Chinese remedies) have repeatedly been found to be contaminated with toxic substances.

5. Examples of therapies for which, so far, virtually no clinical trials have been carried out.

* Flower remedies/essences

* Shiatsu

* Crystal therapy

* Shark cartilage

* Rolling (a deep form of massage guided by the contours of the body)

(1) based on recent overviews of clinical trials in which patients were randomly allocated to treatment with the therapy or with placebo.



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Crystal therapy, though it may look very intriguing and is certainly in vogue, remains untested in clinical conditions

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Yesterday's men or a Tory tomorrow?

OL' "TWO BRAINS" is back. So is "Doris Karloff". From some of the press coverage one might be forgiven for thinking that the Leader of the Opposition had spent yesterday casting for a Hammer horror movie rather than restructuring his frontbench team. The impression is doubly unfortunate in that Mr Hague has promoted politicians like David Willetts and Ann Widdecombe who, despite their fearsome reputations and B-movie nicknames, are more likely to impress the voters than those they have replaced. Miss Widdecombe in particular has shown what wit, ability and a combative disposition can do even in an age when spin and looks are assumed to count for all. She, along with most of the rest of us, was obviously quite wrong to write her political career off after her celebrated "something of the night" attack on Michael Howard.

True, Miss Widdecombe, Mr Willetts and the new shadow Chancellor, Francis Maude, have "form", but they are not readily recognisable as relics of the last government and thus "yesterday's" men and women. Mr Hague has also tilted his team towards a fresher future by saying good-bye to Sir Brian Mawhinney, for so long the unacceptable face of Majorism. But to replace him as shadow Home Secretary with Sir Norman Fowler, a man who has been around so long that he was in Margaret Thatcher's Shadow Cabinet twenty years ago, is to replace yesterday's man with the day before yesterday's man.

But then, does anyone care who the shadow Chancellor is? Does your heart beat a little faster now that you know that Peter Ainsworth is shadow Culture Secretary?

After all, even if Labour had only squeaked in last time there would still be three or four years before the next election. And, if the pollsters and the wisecracks are to be believed, none of Mr Hague's team has much chance of being in a position to run anything for the best part of ten years, if then. But these moves do matter, for these people are the alternative government.

In the meantime their job is to oppose – and we should also care about the quality of political opposition, as fresh doubts are aired about the effectiveness of Parliament and the concentration of power at No 10. Harold Macmillan thought that opposition should be "fun". He may have gone too far in suggesting that it should be entirely unencumbered by a sense of responsibility, but the need for a team of hard-hitting, lively parliamentarians, not above a bit of knockabout, has rarely been more keenly felt.

Yesterday marked the end of what one of Mr Hague's aides called his "interim" team. But, while there is yet some talent to promote, there are still a few too many of "yesterday's men" on the opposition front bench for the current line-up to be definitive. This will not be the last reshuffle before we really see a fresh future for the Tory party. But let us hope Mr Hague has given himself some more leverage against a government that has rarely been effectively opposed.

Crown prosecutors guilty as charged

GIVEN the importance that both main parties have, rightly, placed on law and order it is a matter for some concern that the political process has only now succeeded in forcing a report that confirms all our worst fears about the Crown Prosecution Service.

The ability of the service to do its job properly has been a matter of public concern for many years but, as with other bureaucratic bodies, the CPS and those who run it seem to have placed a premium on protecting themselves from investigation and reform. Some years ago a staff survey showed that 68 per cent of those who worked for it were dissatisfied with their jobs. This would have been defensible had the CPS been embarked on a painful programme of change designed to improve its effectiveness. It was not. The now departed Director of Public Prosecutions, Barbara Mills, seemed to spend more time in absurd bureaucratic adventures than in the workaday business of making the law effective. It is extremely sad that a body that, as Sir Iain Glidewell notes in his report, has the potential to become a lively, successful and esteemed part of the criminal justice system became instead a national joke. That it did is, ultimately, the fault of those politicians who allowed such a disgraceful state of affairs to persist under their noses. Successive Home Secretaries and Attorneys General have a good deal to answer for. The CPS desperately needs a new beginning that guarantees its independence and gives it the resources and leadership it has lacked for so long.

Don't cry for Gazza

IF PAUL GASCOIGNE believed some of the propaganda now being pumped out on his behalf then he would never be able to come to terms with Glenn Hoddle's decision to drop him from England's World Cup squad. According to Gascoigne's friend Chris Evans, he is "the kind of player, like a box of fireworks, that you can bring on and change things, against the odds; he always gets it together." Is he? Does he?

It is unlikely that Gascoigne ever possessed these magical qualities. He may have been one of the most talented players in his generation, if not the most talented, but this may have told us more about that generation's abilities than anything else. Either way, it is no longer the case. Whatever the reason, Paul Gascoigne was simply not fit enough to play for England. It is obviously a disappointing thing for him, but it is not in any way unfair. This was a choice made on objective criteria. To pretend otherwise only makes it the harder to bear.

Paul Gascoigne made his reputation by crying during a previous World Cup but there is no need for anyone – not even Gascoigne – to cry about Glenn Hoddle's decision.



Training oppressors

Sir: The fundamental objection to the training of Indonesian officers by universities, such as Hull (letter, 29 May), and the British government ("UK funded training for Indonesian forces", 1 June) relates to failure by the institutions concerned to take account of the context in which the military routinely violates human rights. The armed forces have dominated everyday life and intervened in everything from land disputes to labour disputes for the last 32 years. The special forces, Kopassus, some of whose officers are studying at Hull University, are trained in interrogation techniques including the use of torture, and their role in the illegally occupied territory of East Timor is one of unprecedented brutality.

The necessary reform of the role of the military will not be brought about by exposing a few officers to lessons in human rights and democracy. On the contrary, the Government and universities such as Hull are legitimising the existing role of the military. A senior lecturer at Hull has stated that we should "engage with and hopefully influence people likely to be in positions of authority and power there," while the Ministry of Defence talks about generating goodwill with the military. While there has been change at the top in Indonesia, the armed forces remain as powerful as ever. They were responsible for the recent killing of six student demonstrators and they continue to resist change in East Timor. The British government and British universities should support democratic reform in Indonesia by refusing to train or teach any more military personnel.

PAUL BARBER
TAPOL, The Indonesia Human Rights Campaign
London WC2

Sir: Dr Watson's comments (letter, 29 May) display a misunderstanding of the military in Suharto's New Order. As a World Bank consultant, I worked in Indonesian government departments for seven years.

Suharto originally institutionalised the political and economic role of the military, buying their support

through the establishment of business fiefdoms. The military is a business machine which has benefited mightily from its position of power. The bureaucracy has been extensively militarised and no section is without military officers occupying important positions. With large financial interests at stake, it is naive to suppose that the military could be converted to a democratic political system – being willing to destroy its own power-base and financial interests.

D F HAGGER
Llandrillo, Denbighshire

Music on the Net

Sir: Wendy Grossman (Comment, 28 May) is right to point out that the Internet is a great forum for writers to get their music to a wider audience. The opportunities are exciting, but songwriters and composers continue to rely on royalties to make a living. We are entitled to continue to get paid for our work in the new age. As a working songwriter I rely on copyright and the ability to enforce my rights to ensure payment. I don't actually get paid for writing a song: I only earn money when it is bought or played. I do not have the luxury of hoping that an unregulated Net will result in fair and timely payment.

It is not just the most successful songwriters who benefit from the British Music Rights campaign. All will benefit from an environment in which we can write for an international on-line audience without worrying about how we will get paid.

MICK LEESON
London N10

Sir: Mark Vardy's point (letter, 29 May) about MP3 files is misleading. MP3 is virtually indistinguishable from CD quality for most music fans. Furthermore, "MPMan" is now in production in Korea. This system, which looks like a small dictaphone, enables you to store up to 64 min-

utes of MP3 music and carry it about with you Walkman-style. It is also possible to make CD copies which are playable on normal CD players – albeit with a slight loss of quality. MP3s are not just in the domain of the computer.

It is in the interests of all creatives to take part in the development of new technologies, and this includes means to protect rights.

GAVIN ROBERTSON
New Media R&D Manager
The Music Alliance
London W1

The consultants' club

Sir: Rudolph Klein writes about the inbred culture of the Bristol Royal Infirmary ("Tragic case that proves the need for checks on competence", 30 May). Does this arise in part because the consultant body is still largely an all-male club?

Nationally, only 19 per cent of consultants are women, and this drops to 4 per cent among surgeons, despite the fact that 52 per cent of medical students are female. Additionally, 85 per cent of women doctors have children. If these mothers had been among Mr Wisheart's colleagues, would they have permitted things to go as far as they did?

There is an immediately accessible way of changing the hospital culture: appoint more women to consultants' jobs.

JANEY HUBER FRCS
Cambridge

'Mail' apology

Sir: Your report (1 June) about the damages *The Mail on Sunday* is to pay the actress Brooke Shields was way off the mark.

The actual figure is, of course, a confidential matter between Miss Shields and us but it is considerably less than the one you quoted.

Far from being "po-faced in the

extreme" (whatever that means) we took urgent steps to correct our mistake as soon as we discovered we had been seriously misled by a source in France. As is usual for all newspapers, including *The Independent*, in such a case, part of the settlement is the publication of any apology in terms agreed with the complainant's lawyers, and this was what we published on Page Three. The Editor himself made the decision to publish a personal apology on the front page because, as he stated: "We were very wrong and, in this case, it is right we should say so prominently."

RUSSELL FORGHAM
Managing Editor
The Mail on Sunday
London W8

Modified soya

Sir: It is untrue that "the entire food industry is making use of soya protein which may be derived from genetically modified soya beans", as claimed by Birdseye ("No warnings of modified soya in foods" 28 May). Many supermarket chains across Europe have sourced natural soya as, for example, has Iceland in this country. They have refused to bow to the bullying of their American suppliers.

GEORGE STIDOLPH
Chairman
Scottish Consumers Association for Natural Food
Glasgow

Fuming

Sir: William Procter has a point (letter, 30 May) about the relative dangers of passive smoking and car fumes, but motorists in my neck of the woods are very considerate, as they never bring their cars into shops, pubs and restaurants. I recognise their thoughtfulness and allow smoking guests to use my garage.

RICHARD PREECE
Wirral, Merseyside

Hoddle's masterstroke

Sir: Ginger Spice quits the pop life at the same time as Paul Gascoigne is omitted from the England squad: I wonder if the two are entirely unconnected? Could this be, in fact, the strategic masterstroke of Glenn Hoddle that England's football fans have been so patiently waiting for? I for one will be hoping for a last-minute, quipped surprise in the starting line-up against Tunisia.

Admittedly, Ginger Spice has yet to prove herself as a footballer at the highest level, but this has never been a barrier to inclusion in the England team. Her platforms could give us some much-needed height against Continental defences in the set pieces; her reputation for toughness will reassure Mr Hoddle that when the chips are down she will take that second yellow card without any unnecessary blubbing in front of the rest of the team.

May I be the first to applaud the England coach on this clandestine and audacious switch? I can only hope Miss Halliwell can be persuaded to take some time off product endorsement to put in some penalty-taking practice before the quarter-finals against the Germans.

ADAM MORGAN
London SW17

Sir: Pay-per-view football is a brilliant idea. You turn up at the ground, pay the man on the gate and view whatever is on offer: good, bad or indifferent. I have been doing this for more than 30 years and can recommend it wholeheartedly. The Premiership chairmen owe it to genuine fans to ensure that when Murdoch eventually goes from the scene, he leaves behind a game that still has some vestige of integrity and culture.

CHARLIE MCCORMICK
Geddington, Northamptonshire

Quake puzzle

Sir: Can any seismologist deny the rumour that the second earthquake in Afghanistan may have been triggered by the recent nuclear tests on the (unstable) Indian sub-continent? Dr JAMES HUTCHISON
Birmingham

As 2000 looms, the world awaits the end – and Melvyn Bragg's last judgment



MILES KINGDON

DR VERNON HANDLEY is a philosopher. He is the Professor of Applied Philosophy at Milton Keynes University. He has a lovely wife, two lovely children and one other child not quite so lovely. He has a house and a big garden. You'd think he would be moderately happy, or at least philosophical.

But he is not yet happy. He has one burning, unfulfilled ambition, and that is to be a guest on *Start the Week* with Melvyn Bragg. Until that is granted, one feels he will not be a happy man.

"It sounds illogical," he smilingly agrees. "Indeed, it is illogical. Who would want to waste the whole of Monday morning travelling to London, chatting for ten or fifteen minutes, then coming back by lunchtime to find your whole week's workplan behind schedule? The programme may be called *Start the Week*, but for those involved it is quite the opposite. It is a case of 'Delay The Week For Melvyn Bragg'."

So why do you want to appear on the programme?

"Well, if I were actually on the programme and were asked that question, I would probably argue that there is a human gene which makes us want to appear on such programmes, but that is also clearly illogical, so I will admit that the real reason is vanity. I would like the cachet. Many of my colleagues have appeared on the programme, and it sits well in their CVs. I think I am jealous of them. It is after all, a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Nobody ever gets invited back to the programme. Unless they are Steve Jones or Jonathan Miller."

And they enjoy it even when Mr Bragg has called what they say "tosh"?

"Oh, I think they quite like that. After all, an idea which has been dismissed as tosh by Mr Bragg is not therefore a negligible idea. Many learned men see it as a compliment. But surely you cannot get on such a pro-

gramme unless you have a thesis to talk about, or a book, or a lecture to give?

"Ah, but I have such a thesis! I have developed a new Millennium theory which is the sort of thing which Mr Bragg and his guests, and the spare lady he always invites, would discuss avidly, I think. Would you like to hear it?"

Please. "Well, we hark back a lot these days to the first Millennium, to AD1000, when a majority of people in Christendom really believed that the world was going to end and that they would all go to heaven on the stroke of midnight. Right?"

Yes – yes – "Well, what if they were right?"

Pardon? "What if the world really did end in AD1000?"

But it didn't! "Ah! We think it didn't! We think that

history carried on and proved them wrong. But what if history really did end in AD1000? What if God really did bring everything to an end?"

Why would He want to do that?

"Because He was fed up with it all."

So – who are we? And where did the last 1,000 years come from?"

"Ah! My theory is that God really did end the world in AD1000, but that He was curious to see what would have happened if He hadn't finished everything off. So he set a small computer experiment going to find out how the next 1,000 years would have worked out. That's us. We are just a computer projection of history looking ahead."

So the last 1,000 years haven't really happened?

"Not really. We are a game on God's virtual reality playstation."

Is there any proof for this?

"No. It is unprovable. Or at least, it will

be until AD2000. If my theory is correct, God is getting fed up again, and the computer projection in which we exist will end in AD2000. After AD2000 – nothing! It is beginning to break down already. Hence our fears about the Millennium Bug...."

But just a minute. If Dr Vernon Handley is right... if the last thousand years have been a computer projection... then Dr Handley is also part of that computer projection?

"Yes, of course."

And this idea, that the world really ended in AD1000, is something dreamed up by him, by a figment of a computer's imagination?

"Yes...."

Frankly, it all sounds like a load of tosh to me.

"You may well say so," says Dr Vernon Handley, smiling happily, "but all I ask is one day to hear the same sentiments from Mr Bragg's lips."

It's little things that can make the difference in urban renewal



ANDREAS
WHITTAM SMITH

CITIES are improving. Dashing late one evening from a meeting in the centre of Birmingham to the railway station last week, I noticed that there were still people going to and fro long after the shops in the pedestrianised streets had closed. There was a well-coming bustle of activity. This was no longer the bleak city centre I used to know. London is much more satisfying than it was 15 to 20 years ago. Now that Leicester Square, for instance, is closed to traffic, I am glad to recommend it to visitors: in the old days I was ashamed of the place.

Not all is gain, however. I was recently in the middle of Liverpool, also in the evening. The area around Lime Street station and St George's Hall is a sort of urban hell - featureless except for a few islands of the old Liverpool still standing, cut through with new roads along which the traffic sweeps, as if fleeing the city, unconnected with what is around it.

"Connections are what make successful cities. Unsuccessful cities are unconnected," writes Robert Cowan in a pamphlet on making cities work, echoing the famous opening lines of *Anna Karenina* - "All happy families resemble one another, but every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way." All successful cities connect; all unsuccessful cities are disconnected in their own way.

At a recent meeting in Hammersmith in west London, which was part of a participative exercise in finding methods of improving the borough, the focus was largely on re-connecting communities that had been disconnected by major roads. Hammersmith has seven major east-west routes passing through it, not least because it stands between Heathrow airport and the centre of London. Even here the ideal is the connected city.

But what to connect? How to connect? The short answer is - ask the real experts. These are not, by the way, architects, planners, road engineers, local government officials and the like, but the people themselves. Residents know exactly what works well, and what doesn't, what is pleasant, what depresses them, how far they have to go for some fresh air, what are the local no-go areas, what could quickly be improved. Thus in Hammersmith and Fulham, where the Architecture Foundation, whose chairman is Richard Rogers, has been working with the local authority to improve nine sites, consultation with local people has been the starting point.

The method was to arrange day-long workshops. In attendance were various specialists, as well as members of the design team for the site. Local people turned up in moderate numbers, but there were enough of them to make the exercise meaningful. Between 20 to 40 people participated in each workshop. The inner suburbs of every large town in

the land have problems similar to Hammersmith's. How to remove, for instance, the sense of danger that deters people from using the vast area of playing fields and open space called Wormwood Scrubs, a name familiar to most people only as a grim prison rather than as an amenity. Actually Wormwood Scrubs is 15 minutes drive from my house. Until I went to see it on Sunday evening, I was unaware of its existence as a huge grassy area, almost a prairie; that is what being "disconnected" means.

Or, to take another example, how to bring the Thames into the imagination of Hammersmith. Residents hardly ever see it. Access is so poor that it is a pleasant surprise when one suddenly glimpses the water flowing by. Another group studied the question of what to do when a flyover, carrying a lot of traffic, runs right through the middle of town. But in a little group of streets close by, the problem was quite different. It was how to handle the unfortunate "other", the homeless who were turned out of bed and breakfast accommodation for the day and congregated in local streets and bits of municipal park, and were felt as a threat.

The solutions put forward are all small scale, designed simply to facilitate pedestrian movement, soften or even hide harsh features and find the cracks in the city fabric where space can be created to fill the lungs with fresh air. Transform the great West Road into a tree-lined boulevard with surface crossings rather than underpasses. Calm the traffic. Put raised lookout points along the river, provide a river bus service. Cut off noise from the motor ways coursing through the borough with landscaped earthworks. Think of the Hammersmith Flyover as a canopy and place

All successful cities connect; all unsuccessful cities are disconnected

flower and plant markets underneath.

Perhaps all this sounds trivial. But think of what is absent from the process. The sites are in the public realm, so property developers with their narrow objectives are not involved. Nor even are proper architects who design landmark buildings.

Charles Jencks has argued that "the truth of city building is that good architecture and good urbanism are opposed... good architects, like good artists, are primarily concerned with the language of form, while good urbanists must have an equal commitment to the things that erode such language: compromise, democracy, pluralism, entrepreneurial skills and patience". The planners, too, have largely been absent from the Hammersmith process. Nor have highway engineers had a role.

In truth, the issues are small and the solutions are so obvious that one feels they are merely common sense. At the final meeting in Hammersmith, one speaker showed a slide illustrating how a small corner of Barcelona had been transformed merely by introducing well-designed outdoor seating. When the solutions are so modest, a lot can be done. Reconnecting the disparate bits of cities is one of the best ways of reviving the joys of city life.

Let us now praise the surprising successes of multicultural Britain



YASMIN
ALIBHAI-BROWN

FIFTY YEARS ago this month, on 22 June 1948, the Empire Windrush brought to this country 492 Jamaicans, the first batch of post-war black immigrants to this country. Most were young, dressed to win and full of aspiration. The *Evening Standard* greeted their arrival with the big bold headline: "Welcome Home."

Those who survive, many of their descendants and other black and Asian Britons would question if this country has been "home" to them. Evidence daily emerges of how much racism, discrimination and racial violence still blight the lives of black Britons.

We are in the middle of the heart-rending enquiry into the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence whose parents did not even bury his body here, but took it back to the Caribbean where in death he would be safe. Today thugs daily despoil the stone marking the spot he was murdered. The conscientious MP Keith Vaz last month produced a dossier revealing how Whitehall remains true to its name, and this week Sir Herman Ouseley, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, called for a radical shake-up of the race laws to broaden their scope and make them more effective against powerful institutions. Many of the original arrivals interviewed on a BBC series on Windrush express movingly how their dreams turned to ashes.

But like most things in life this is only part of the story and while it is right that we should constantly highlight ongoing racial injustices, the extraordinary advances that have occurred merit pride of place too. And the symbols of that progress are everywhere, even in the most unexpected places.

The death of Enoch Powell was announced on British television by two black broadcasters: Trevor Phillips on one channel and Trevor Macdonald on the other. And properly measured and stiff upper-lipped they were too. Poor Enoch. His fantasies fade as we move towards becoming one of the most dynamic multiracial societies in western Europe.

And yet, like many others I spend most of my time pointing out racial injustice and fissures, perhaps because I fear that good news will somehow dilute these messages, or that I will thereby join right-wingers who endlessly proclaim how supremely tolerant Britain is. I think now that I have been wrong about this.



Black and white together, from the school yard to the ranks of the Establishment Photograph: BBC

If we never applaud and celebrate any progress, why should people carry on striving for change at all?

Is it not important for our national self-esteem to notice and applaud the fact that this spring in one of the greatest cricket matches ever in Trinidad, the two heroes of the game, Mark Butcher and Dean Headley, were both black Britons? Or that Bill Morris has joined the prestigious Bank of England advisory group? Or that some talented people like Valerie Amos, Patricia Scotland and Navnit Dholakia, John Taylor, Lord Paul and others are now in the House of Lords?

These days so many black and Asian people receive honours that we hardly

ethnic minority Britons. In fact it is a sign of the (relatively) good times that a photographic exhibition of famous blacks at the National Portrait gallery left out Trevor Macdonald because planners were spoilt for choice.

It could of course be argued that in any society those with star qualities will rise anyway. But there are other indicators showing we are moving in the direction of a truly multicultural society.

Inter-marriage here is higher than almost any other western country. In some areas six-out-of-ten black men have a white partner. The terrible racial divisions in the United States has not been replicated here. Geographical apartheid is impossible to find in any city. And

Other signs indicate a profound change for the better. Who would have thought that the *Daily Mail* would take up the cause of the Lawrence family? And although he was derided, William Hague is the only political leader ever to go to the Notting Hill Carnival. Tony Blair feels passionately about a Britain based on fair opportunities for all.

And then there are the changes nobody notices because they involve ordinary British people. Recently, as I watched the footage of white people out in the streets when I came here in 1972 as a dispossessed Ugandan Asian, I realised how impossible such scenes would be now. This is because so many white people have a personal investment in multiculturalism.

My mother-in-law Vera, who has lived all her life on the South coast, has learned to accept me, a Muslim divorcee with a son; and she has done it with all her heart. Three white men have married into our family and it is they who take care of my mother who barely speaks English. Of such things come hope and change.

So am I saying that the glory days are here? No. There are still many problems. Too many black men are unemployed and as a result drawn to criminal activities that destroy them and theirs. We are not in the upper echelons when it comes to real political power and influence. Not one newspaper commissioning editor is black. All 54 advisors to the Labour government are white.

There are too many cases of racial violence: too many deaths in custody of black men; too many excluded ethnic communities. But fifty years ago the picture was very different and we would not have had, within a single year, three British prime ministers, the Queen and Prince Charles describing this country as a proud multicultural nation. That must count for something.

These days so many black and Asian people receive honours that we hardly notice any more, not even within the communities. The black British poet, John Agard, gets to be an in-house poet at the BBC, and two of the main anchors on BBC 24-hour news, Matthew Amroliwala and Krishnan Guru-Murthy, are both highly talented Asian men.

Add in Lenny Henry and Meera Syal in comedy; the writers Salman Rushdie, Caryl Phillips and Ben Okri; actors like Marianne Jean-Baptiste in *Secrets and Lies*, Cathy Tyson and David Harewood, the first ever undyed Othello now at the National; Lisa l'Anson, the Radio One DJ; news readers Zeinab Badawi and Moira Stewart; Oswald Bostong the Saville Row bespoke tailor, poet Benjamin Zephaniah. The list goes on and on.

Pop music, business and food have been transformed by immigrants and

when I return from some European countries, where what ethnic minorities wear is considered the business of the state and where I have been spat upon (because to the French I look Arab), I want to kiss the airport tarmac here.

Research backs these impressions. Recent figures from the Office for National Statistics reveal that a higher percentage of black and Asian Britons have degrees than do whites. Black women are more likely to be in full-time work than white women. Our top public schools have basketfuls of high-flying minority children. When my son was at St Paul's, three of these pupils had already established themselves as international scientists, winning prizes in the US. So it is with the universities. A quarter of our doctors are from the ethnic minority communities.

Mean millionaires keep charity out of mind and out of pocket



DIANE
COYLE

THE RICH are getting richer. Soaring stock markets have made large numbers of executives and entrepreneurs massively wealthy, while the tax cuts of the Reagan and Thatcher era mean they can keep more of it. Compared with a decade or so

ago, incomes are much more unequal in the Anglo-Saxon countries. So why are the rich getting meaner too?

New figures for charitable giving in the UK show that since 1992 most of the rise in charities' incomes has come from either their own trading activities - those now ultra-hip high street second-hand shops - or from higher fees and grants.

The amount from legacies has climbed, but slowly and from a low base, while voluntary donations have hardly shifted. Corporate donations have increased thanks to high company profits, but the total is a piffling £300m out of a total of about £13bn for the top 3,000 charities, according to figures from the Charities Aid Foundation.

No less a champion of free-market economics and all-out wealth-creation than the *Economist* magazine last week lambasted the new generation of multi-millionaires for their meanness. Only Ted Turner and George Soros earned a philanthropy kitemark.

With the economy and share prices in fine fettle on both sides of the Atlantic, it is clear that the sense of social responsibility borne by the very well-off in the late 19th century - a comparable era of great fortunes and entrepreneurial success - has all but evaporated.

One possibility for the new meanness is simply a general lack of moral uprightness in these post-modern times, extending across all income groups. Certainly, charitable

giving has diminished among the not so well-off, as well as the rich. The rich are, after all, no different from the rest of us except in having more money to not give away.

Another possibility is that modern wealth is more ephemeral than old wealth. The super-rich are more likely to have made their millions through higher share prices on the stock market or success in a fast-moving high technology business than in making goods for which there is a solid, long-lasting mass market.

The owners of oil reserves and manufacturers of textiles at the end of the 19th century could foresee no challenge to their status. But even Mr Gates, the man who put the Bill into billionaire, worries about com-

petitors eroding his overwhelming advantages in a matter of years rather than decades.

The other question for the rich today is what they could do with their money. The obvious gaps arising from the desperate poverty that pre-dated the welfare state - the need for libraries and schools for the many, for decent housing, for food for the huddled urban masses - are thankfully no longer with us. A millionaire wanting to make a big gesture today will probably have to resort to something pretty elitist - a library at an Oxbridge college, say. And, after all, recognition is one of the big rewards of philanthropy.

Yet the need for the wealthy to spread their riches is greater

now than it has been at any time in the past 100 years. This is not just a matter of avoiding a backlash against gross inequality, although there is every sign that this is under way.

More important is the fact that the state appears to have reached its limits, while public expectations continue to rise. There is scant prospect of government money reaching a lot further than it does already in health, education and housing. These needs will fall increasingly to the non-profit and charity sector.

Here, then, is a role for private donors: funding amenities that will benefit large numbers of their fellow citizens. All it needs is for the philanthropists to step forward with their chequebooks.

Freak event

OVER the next two weeks tireless Tony Blair is jetting to almost every European capital for face-to-face summit talks in advance of the EC Council meeting in Cardiff. Reading his schedule is like trying to follow a superhuman version of Homer's *Odyssey*. On Friday, for example, Downing Street's "Operational Note" has him scheduled for lunch in Rome with the Italian Prime Minister, tea in Vienna with the Austrian Chancellor and dinner with the Prime Minister of the Netherlands in the Hague. Pandora was intrigued to see that Blair's final meeting, according to the schedule, is set for Saturday, 13 June, and will be a "bilateral with Geert Prime Minister at No. 10". Tony will deserve a relaxing break at Chequers after meeting with the Geck.

Tea & sympathy

EVEN before the first ball is kicked in the World Cup, watching England has become a major strain on the nerves. Take Glenn Hoddle's pastoral care for his players. After the recent introduction of a faith healer to the squad, England's manager has promised to counsel personally all those players he leaves off the final team. Will this include the insoluble Gascoigne, Pandora wonders? Over a late night kebab, with Five Belles keeping the paparazzi at bay? Isn't Glenn asking too much of himself? Particularly in view of his own recent separation from his wife and his citation in a divorce petition brought against him by the husband of his new girlfriend, Vanessa Shean. Having denied any connection with psychic Uri Geller, would Glenn

PANDORA

please consider Pandora's standing offer to provide a natter, a shoulder to cry on and a hot beverage whenever needed? We all know, Glenn, the pressures you face while trying to complete a 12-step programme for winning the Cup.

Noble missive

HEREDITARY peer Lord Sempill, 48, wrote a chiding letter to last Saturday's *Times Magazine* after one of its columnists had the audacity to criticize the "out-of-touch" House of Lords. The noble Scottish lord, who attended St Clare's Hall, Oxford and spent much of the Eighties working

in the South African advertising industry, delivers a GCSE-level minispeech on the Upper Chamber. "It sits for roughly 140 days a year, for nearly seven hours a day," he enlightens readers. Pandora notes, however, that Lord Sempill himself voted only twice out of 67 divisions during the last Lords session.

Boot-faced Nancy

IN AN ATTEMPT to forestall his own family from "going to the mattresses" in a vicious domestic war following his demise, Frank Sinatra placed a watchful clause in his will. It decreed that anyone who chose to challenge legally the will's terms would be disinherited. Unfortunately, the great singer overlooked one avenue of possible tribal conflict. Now

it appears that his daughter, singer Nancy - whose most famous lyric remains "These boots are made for walking/and if you don't watch out/they'll walk all over you" - is penning her own family memoir. She is reported to be taking a special interest in Barbara, her step-mother and Frank's final wife. No doubt Nancy's book will be as polished and compassionate as her delightful music.

Crowing

PETER LILLEY's departure yesterday as shadow chancellor and Anne Widdecombe's elevation to the front benches in the Boy Wonder's first reshuffle came as no surprise to Pandora's readers who could have read about these changes here on 14 May. Of course.

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By David Usborne
in New York

The new company will have a market capitalisation of \$96bn and will have 1998 sales

American Home still faces the threat of class action lawsuits stemming from dieting drugs that it manufactured that were hastily withdrawn from the US market last year after potentially lethal cardiac side effects were uncovered.

Joanna Lumley yesterday launched a £4m BT campaign for the next generation of home phones. The campaign – the biggest of its kind in the UK – is for a new range of digital cordless phones. BT expects more than 500,000 homes to have the phones by next year. Photograph: Eye Catchers Press

By Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

The latest survey of industry showed a small contraction in manufacturing industry in May, for the second month running.

Peter Thomson, director general, said: "The question now remains whether the

However, some City experts remain concerned about inflationary pressure in the other three quarters of the economy, and especially signs that earnings growth is heading upwards.

By Lea Paterson

Michel de Carvalho, head of international operations at Nikko Securities, confirmed

Separately, the Tokyo Stock Exchange launched an investigation yesterday over possible insider trading involving Nikko shares after the price of its stock jumped Friday, an exchange official said. Nikko shares closed at 436 yen on Friday, up 4.8 per cent from Thursday's close.

By Michael Harrison

"If this project does not proceed then we are entitled to compensation and there is a lot of money at stake," said one source.

By Michael Harrison

The survey, carried out by NOP for the industry lobby

He said that if the industry regulator Ian Byatt imposed a 15 per cent cut in bills profits would be halved from last year's

According to the Water UK

Reducing leakages, minimising flooding and improving reliability of supply were customers' top three priorities.

By Andrew Verity

In one example, Geoff Perry, a 64-year-old coach painter,

Shares with a nominal value of a penny were given to all permanent employees in an

Steve Arnold, a spokesman for Mainline, said: "The only qualification [for shares] was a person having two or more years of service. As it was said at the time - all shareholders were created equal. There has

Investment column, page 24

By Andrew Verity

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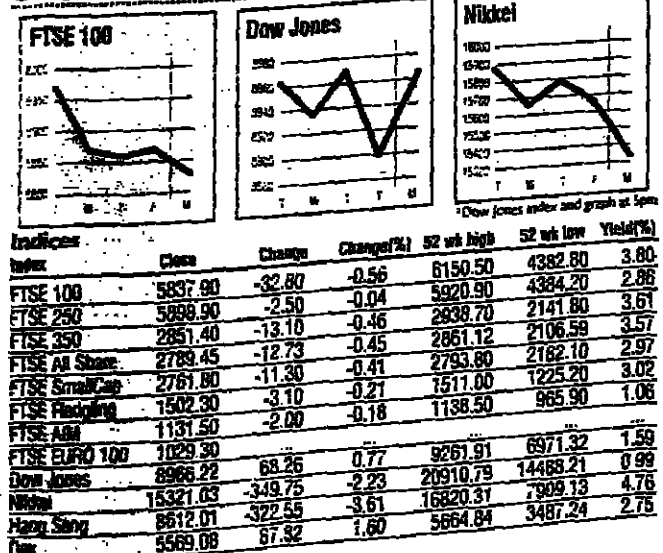
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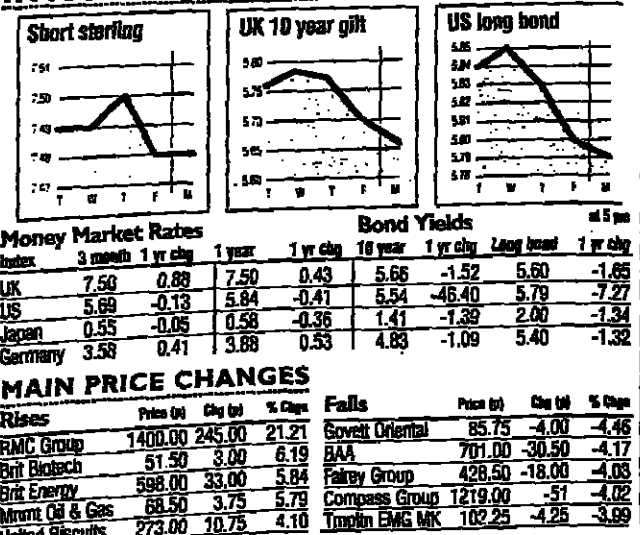
Investment column, page 24

Yesterday in the markets

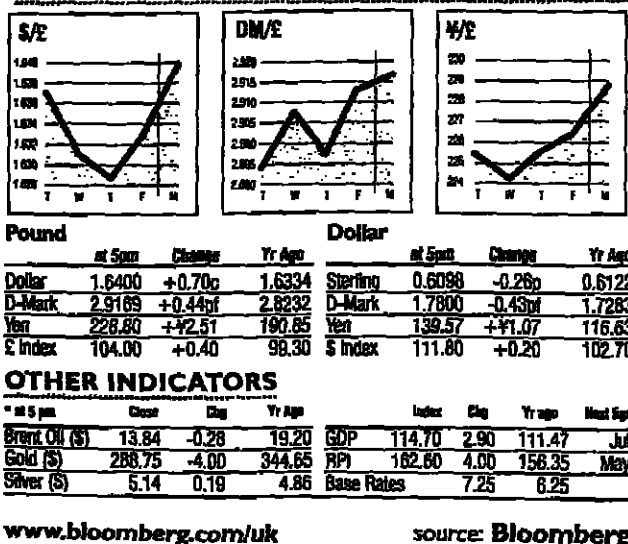
STOCK MARKETS



INTEREST RATES



CURRENCIES



TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	5.5387	Malaysia (ringgits)	6.0699
Austria (schillings)	19.77	Mexico (lira)	0.6171
Belgium (francs)	58.12	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.05
Canada (\$)	2.3140	Netherlands (guilders)	3.1693
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8258	New Zealand (\$)	2.9342
Denmark (krona)	10.79	Norway (krona)	11.97
Finland (markka)	8.619	Portugal (escudos)	205.01
France (francs)	9.4301	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.9370
Germany (marks)	2.8222	Singapore (\$)	2.6259
Greece (drachmas)	478.22	Spain (pesetas)	238.44
Hong Kong (\$)	12.24	South Africa (rand)	8.1026
Ireland (pounds)	1.1132	Sweden (krona)	12.45
India (rupees)	62.82	Switzerland (francs)	2.3518
Israel (shekels)	5.4977	Thailand (bahts)	59.89
Italy (lira)	2787	Turkey (liras)	401146
Japan (yen)	222.20	USA (\$)	1.5315

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

Emap looks solid but highly priced

OVER THE past year, Emap's share price graph has borne an uncanny resemblance to the circulation graph for *FHM*, its popular lads mag. However, it would be a tad simplistic to suggest that Emap's popularity in the City is entirely down to the success of putting near-naked babes on the newsstands. Although UK consumer magazines is Emap's largest business, it also has a similar operation in France and an exhibitions subsidiary, not to mention a well-established radio division.

All four divisions contributed to Emap's growth in the year to March, when underlying profits rose by 17 per cent to £14.2m on continuing sales which were up 4 per cent to £773m. The question, however, is whether this kind of growth can be sustained. Given that paper prices are at record lows and advertising rates hitting all-time highs, it would seem that things can only get worse for Emap.

Expansion plans in the UK are also constrained by competition laws. A looming Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry put Emap at a severe disadvantage in the race to buy the IPC magazines group.

And radio ownership rules mean that Emap had to sell Red Dragon, its Cardiff station, in order to be allowed to buy Melody, the London easy-listening outfit.

That said, Emap believes there is plenty of growth in overseas markets. It has already launched *FHM* in Australia, and is planning similar moves into other countries, including a possible foray into the US if it can find the right deal.

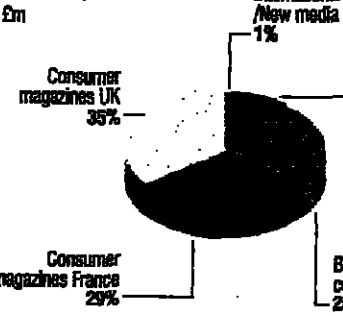
Back home, it will continue to launch new titles – the company expects that launch costs this year will be about £20m – up 50 per cent on the previous 12 months. The launch of *Red*, the women's glossy, suggests that Emap still thinks there is room for more titles on the newsagents' shelves.

All this makes Emap a solid, and relatively risk-free, media stock. There is no digital hype – soon-to-be-chairman Robin Miller is cool on the prospects for digital television channels based on magazine titles, while his enthusiasm for digital radio is waning. However, this also raises the question of whether Emap justifies its current rating. On profit forecasts of £16.1m the shares, which dropped 12.5p to 1280.5p yesterday, trade on a forward multiple of 25. Given Emap's exposure to an advertising downturn or higher paper prices, the shares are high enough.

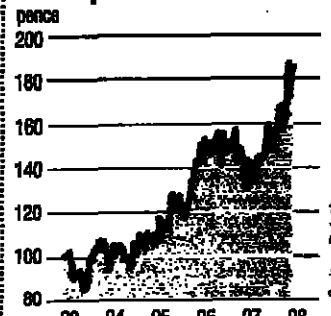
EMAP: At a glance

Trading record	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Turnover (£m)	362	547	705	768	773
Pre-tax profits (£m)	45.7	68.9	76.3	234.8	141.7
Earnings per share (p)	16.5	22.2	24.5	80.4	45.7
Dividends per share (p)	8.52	8.75	11.2	13.0	15.0

Turnover



Share price



FirstGroup can travel further

HAS FIRSTGROUP, the buses-to-airports group, travelled too far, too fast? Since the beginning of 1998, the shares have nearly doubled in price, from 223p to 431.5p. Earnings per share have gone up by 30 per cent every year for the past three years. Can it sustain this sort of pace? The City is enthusiastic for two main

reasons. First, the group has made a series of rapid acquisitions in the last 12 months. Ditching its old identity as First Bus, the company has bought its way into becoming an integrated transport company. In December, it bought a 51 per cent stake in Bristol International Airport. In March, it spent £105m on the whole of the Great Western Railway franchise, to add to its existing North West Trains operation. FirstGroup has entered a joint venture with Hong Kong's New World Development Company to run 88 bus routes in the for-

mer colony. And yesterday it announced the £29.7m purchase of Mainline, a south Yorkshire company which runs 700 buses.

After initial scepticism, shareholders have endorsed the idea of the integrated transport group. That image has also been reinforced by the Government's imminent White Paper on transport which is expected to contain proposals to stimulate public demand and reward the combined use of trains, planes and buses.

The trendy nature of the stock, is, of course, already reflected in the price. Profits last year were up 42 per cent to £72.5m. But a £17m restructuring charge on the newly acquired businesses is forecast to depress earnings to just £95m in the coming year. That puts the shares, which slid 2p to 431.5p yesterday, on a forward earnings multiple of 20, which is not as expensive compared to FirstGroup's peers. Hold for the long term.

Ultraframe thrives in the conservatory

PUTTING roofs on conservatories hardly sounds like the way to make a fortune. But it's precisely the business behind Ultraframe, one of the market's favourite stocks of the moment. Since the company joined the market last October its share price has more than doubled as Ultraframe showed that bringing conservatories to

Middle England can be a lucrative trade. Ultraframe's secret is its innovative design of roofs, which allows conservatories to be built faster and cheaper than before. This brainwave has given the firm a third of the British conservatory market. The design is protected by a series of patents, which are constantly updated and improved.

As yesterday's half-year results show, business is booming. Turnover was up by a fifth to £26m while profit, helped by a relatively stable cost base, jumped 86 per cent to £6.9m.

How long can the boom last? True, the figures did receive a one-off boost from the mild winter, which allowed building work to carry on for longer than usual. But there is still mileage in helping Mrs Smith keep up with the Joneses by building a conservatory.

What's more, there are plenty of opportunities which Ultraframe has not yet begun to exploit. It is looking to build up exports to continental Europe and the US. There are also deals to be done with pub and restaurant chains, expanding their space by constructing conservatories, or building them as standard on new homes.

This all adds up to a rosy outlook for Ultraframe. But this doesn't necessarily mean the shares are worth buying. Williams de Broë, the stockbroker, predicts full-year profits of £18m, putting the shares, up 5.5p to 360.5p yesterday, on an ambitious forward p/e ratio of 27. For now, that's high enough.

IN BRIEF

GRE moves into US in £475m deal with ING

GUARDIAN Royal Exchange is selling its Canadian operations and buying into the US in a £475m deal with ING, the Dutch financial services group. Guardian will buy ING's property and casualty insurance arm, the Netherlands Insurance Companies. In part exchange, it will sell Guardian Insurance Company of Canada and pay the £475m in cash. John Robins, chief executive, said the deal would quadruple Guardian's US operations. In many states, it would put it in the top three for property and casualty insurance. He added the deal should allow Guardian to realise savings of £31m a year.

Pension contributions shrink

BIG EMPLOYERS dropped the amount they paid into pension schemes last year by 7 per cent, a study by Incomes Data Services has shown. Contributions by 184 of the biggest pension funds, fell from £3.84bn to £3.58bn in the year to March 1997, the last for which figures are available. Separately, a survey by Coopers & Lybrand warned employers would suffer heavily if stock markets fell because they favoured buying shares for their pension funds rather than gilts. This was despite the fact that many members had retired, which suggested pension funds should invest in gilts.

Emap cool on digital radio

EMAP is close to pulling out of the consortium which is bidding for the licence to run national digital radio. "We still have to be persuaded," Robin Miller, the media group's chief executive said yesterday. "Nobody's quite certain as to what the rewards will be but what we can see is a huge cost." Emap had been considering joining GWR, which owns Classic FM, and Virgin Radio in mounting a bid. Applications are due to be submitted to the Radio Authority by the end of June.

Clear Channel raises stake

CLEAR CHANNEL Communications, the US media giant, yesterday raised its stake in More Group to 29.88 per cent by buying shares in the market, taking it one step closer to winning the bid battle for the outdoor advertising outfit. With the approval of More's board, which it will seek this morning, Clear Channel plans to take its stake above 30 per cent. Its 1110p a share offer, which More has recommended over a 1220p a share indicative offer from Decaux, its French rival, closes on June 13. More Group shares closed down 24.5p at 1.108p.

Standard Life business booms

STANDARD LIFE, the UK's biggest mutual insurance company, saw business boom by a third in the half year to May. New premiums rose by 33 per cent to £281m, calculated on an annual basis. The company has prospered mainly because of its "fair deal" pension contract, which broke new ground because it did not penalise policyholders who had to stop paying in. Standard Life said full-year results should show its new business has doubled over three years.

ITV companies seek renewal

ELEVEN of the 16 ITV licensees yesterday submitted applications to the Independent Television Commission, seeking early renewal of their licences. The applicants included Carlton, Central and Westcountry, which are all held by Carlton Communications, Michael Green's media group. United News & Media also submitted its HTV and Meridian licences for renewal, in the hope that the ITC will reduce the terms attached to them. The watchdog is expected to give its ruling in the autumn. However, none of the licensees are forced to accept the ITC's revised terms.

UBS executives sue

TWO Union Bank of Switzerland executives have said that they sued *The Economist* for a report that alleged the bank's Singapore branch may have lost as much as 1bn Swiss francs from large bets on interest rates and foreign exchange. Last week, the bank denied the report and said the branch made a profit of \$942m last year. Lim Ho Kee, chairman of UBS East Asia, and James Loh, regional head of interest rate and currency risk management, said their lawyers filed the suits against the newspaper on Monday in Singapore. Lim and Loh said they have given *The Economist* 48 hours to retract the article, apologise and to pay damages. UBS, which said it was seeking legal advice on the *Economist* story, is in the process of merging with Swiss Bank Corp to form UBS AG, Europe's biggest bank.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Cardiff Property (Q)	0.445m (0.105m)	0.240m (0.210m)	7.0p (5.9p)	1.7p (1.0p)
Colson Group (FY)	25.47m (17.45m)	3.074m (1.598m)	1.25p (0.78p)	0.59p (0.37p)
EMAP (FY)	772.6m (768.2m)	141.7m (234.8m)	45.7p (80.4p)	10.05p (15.0p)
FirstGroup (FY)	795.0m (557.3m)	72.5m (51.0m)	17.7p (16.0p)	6.9p (5.5p)
Gen Group (FY)	50.52m (22.28m)	1.38m (0.943m)	5.50p (3.75p)	1.40p (0.9p)
Hagman Properties (FY)	34.41m (34.57m)	0.1m (2.1m)	3.27p (1.40p)	1.3p (1.1p)
Stena Fleet (FY)	79.29m (155.42m)	1.687m (27.5m)	3.9p (41.2p)	nil (nil)
Thomas Lister (FY)	63.29m (64.47m)	3.805m (3.536m)	3.45p (2.91p)	1.0p (1.0p)
Ultraframe (Q)	26.09m (21.53m)	7.25m (3.71m)	5.5p (2.7p)	1.7p (nil)
Whitson (FY)	109.90m (105.61m)	11.17m (6.882m)	12.1p (7.1p)	5.25p (4.45p)

(FY) - Full (Q) - Interim EPS is pre-exceptional *Dividend to be paid as a PD



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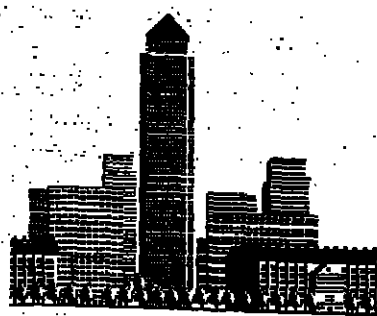
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هَذَا من الأصل



OUTLOOK ON A PANTOMIME BID FOR ROLLS- ROYCE MOTORS, REGULATING GLOBAL INVESTMENT BANKS, ENCOURAGING BUSINESS START-UP FINANCE, AND WATER SHARES

CREWE Motors, the rag-bag collection of enthusiasts attempting to stop Rolls-Royce Motor Cars from falling into German hands, may be a serious proposition. Alternatively, it may be nothing more than a pantomime horse. The front end is formed by the ample bulk of Michael Shrimpton, a Bentley-driving barrister with a penchant for self-publicity. The rear end, if we are to believe Mr Shrimpton, is propped up by a British clearing bank and an American billionaire. In the best pantomime tradition, however, the identity of these hind quarters remains a mystery.

Not for much longer. Mr Shrimpton has promised to unveil his bid by tomorrow along with the name of the clearing bank. We may have to wait a little longer for the identities of the Bentley enthusiasts supporting the offer. In fact we may never discover them - for a consortium so keen to court publicity, the Shrimpton Crewe are curiously shy when it comes to stepping into the limelight themselves.

Being a barrister, Mr Shrimpton will not be surprised to discover that Vickers, the vendors of R-RMC, will require rather more by way of hard evidence that his bid has any substance. Full disclosure, in fact, will need to be the order of the day. Crewe Motors says that it already has enough money in the kitty to top the £430m recommended offer tabled by Volkswagen, and then match the £300m the Germans have pledged to invest in the Bentley and Rolls marques over the next five years.

All this, without ever having been granted access to the data room, the Rolls-

Royce management or the factory in Crewe for that matter. This suggests that Mr Shrimpton's backers have as much trust in him as he is asking for from Vickers' shareholders. Sipping the pantomime horse has not exited stage left by the time Friday's shareholders' meeting arrives, then the best he can hope for is a postponement of the vote on VW's offer.

In the meantime, BMW, the bidder that Vickers ditched in favour of VW, remains the dark horse to watch in the closing stages of the race for Rolls-Royce.

Regulating global players

GOOD morning ladies and gentlemen. My name is Jan Topolski and I am chief executive designate of Global Investment Mega Banking Inc. It has come to my attention that something called the Financial Services Authority has just been formally launched in a small but vitally important offshore link in our global markets architecture known as the City of London. This is a new all encompassing regulator for financial services in the UK, something of an experiment it might be said, dreamt up by the recently elected Blair government. I'm all in favour of innovation in financial markets - we do it all the time - but I do want to fire a few warning shots across the bows before anything gets set in concrete.

The first is that the needs of us global players are entirely different from life insurers, building societies, independent

financial advisers and other assorted flotam and jetsam thrown up by the demands of the ordinary domestic economy. As far as us masters of the universe are concerned, we are only over here in the UK at all because the tax is lax, it's easy to get to, the opera and strawberries are good, and, hey, you speak our language.

We've already had one or two unnerving experiences with your British regulators - notably the Securities and Futures Authority, which has been cracking down on some of our leading edge innovations - and let me warn you here and now, we're not taking any more of it. Firms must know where they stand. As any childcare book will tell you, it's no good disciplining someone for something he doesn't know is an offence. If it is regarded as reprehensible to mislead the market or disadvantage the client, then we must be told as much.

But I digress. I cannot tell you how infuriating it is for us global players to be beholden to all these national regulators. Be it on your own heads if you attempt to force our management structures to fit your own regulatory blueprints. We will simply move elsewhere. This is particularly the case in places like the City - and I don't want to appear rude here - where the local market is not particularly large and which is only used by us because it is a convenient spot for international trade.

If this sounds like a threat of regulatory arbitrage, nothing could be further from my mind. Absolutely not. It is not in our long term interests for there to be weak links in the global regulatory chain, which can be costly to us. Only you must

understand that we here at Global Investment Mega Banking know how to do it best. I'll tell you what. Why don't you let us run the FSA? Regulators are such destructive meddlers, don't you agree?

Venture capital for start-ups

PROMOTING investment in high-technology start-ups is one of those motherhood and apple pie issues for Governments. Nobody can object to the ambition, and although some might carp about the principle of public intervention in an activity best left to the market, the amount of taxpayers' money at stake is usually too small to get worked up about.

Britain's poor start-up record and correspondingly underdeveloped venture capital market has been exercising the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, ever since he got into Government. He's hardly the first to recognise it as a core weakness in the UK economy. Public concern dates back as far as the Macmillan Commission on the financing of industry in 1932. So it seems unlikely that anything the Chancellor comes up with in a promised package of measures today will of itself do much to correct the problem. The British disease, it seems, is not so much a lack of funds as a lack of entrepreneurial spirit. If the huge array of potentially profitable businesses were there, clamouring for finance, chances are the finance would be there too.

As it is, there must be some doubt as to whether Britain can mimic America's

success in developing a thriving high-technology start-up sector. The bottom line is not how much start-up finance is available, but what the Government can do to boost entrepreneurship. Other than keep a steady hand on the macro-economic tiller, the answer is probably only a little.

That doesn't matter necessarily; every little helps. The Chancellor sensibly intends to stake little public money on financing small high-tech companies, but will do all he can to exhort and encourage scientists and entrepreneurs. Nobody can object too much to better tax incentives for individuals who do take the plunge and start a business.

Time to bale out of water stocks

THE WATER industry says six out of 10 households would be happy to pay more for their supplies if they thought the environment was being cleaned up at the same time. The industry regulator Ian Byatt says he is going to cut bills to reflect the efficiency improvements made since prices were last set five years ago. The industry howls and says this will "zap" profits and investment. The regulator says he doesn't believe its figures or its opinion polls. Something has to give and it looks like being the very big year-on-year real dividend increases investors have come to expect from water companies. Time to bale out unless you are content with an investment that begins to behave like a gilded stock.

FSA under fire from City as it takes over

By Lea Paterson

The Financial Services Authority (FSA) officially took up its role as City policeman yesterday, amid concerns about delays to the parliamentary bill which will give the watchdog its full regulatory powers. At a launch conference in London, the new "super-watchdog" was also subjected to sharp criticism from one of the City's most prominent figures.

Hans de Gier, chairman and chief executive designate of Warburg Dillon Read - the investment bank formed by the merger of UBS and SBC - said the UK's current regulatory regime was "perceived as arbitrary" by the City.

Speaking to a collection of the great and the good in UK financial services, Mr de Gier said: "The disciplinary process will, I suggest, only be both fair and seen to be fair when it is clear to the industry that firms who disclose problems to the SFA and who take prompt remedial action are not automatically subject to lengthy, and eventually published, disciplinary action... And although I have singled out the SFA here, I do not believe that other reg-

ulators are free of such perceptions."

The Warburg Dillon Read chief also cautioned the regulator against trying to force firms like his own to change management structures "to fit national regulators' blueprints". Mr de Gier said such a move "is likely to find the firms moving their operations to a jurisdiction where the structure which the firm has devised to best manage its operations can be maintained".

Mr de Gier's comments struck a chord among the conference delegates, who spoke of the need for a new "partnership approach" between the regulators and the regulated.

Alistair Darling, chief secretary to the Treasury and another conference speaker, declined to comment directly on press reports suggesting the new FSA could face a two-year wait for its full regulatory powers.

The Bank of England Act, which came into force yesterday, officially transfers responsibility for banking supervision from the Bank to the FSA. The FSA will also now supply regulatory services to the



Howard Davies, FSA chairman: Facing criticism about the fairness of the new super-watchdog's disciplinary processes

existing City watchdogs Imro, the PIA and the SFA.

However, the watchdogs will not be officially merged into the FSA until the proposed Financial Services Bill becomes law. According to some sources, the bill - which is yet to be published in draft form - may not come into force until the middle of 2000, rather than late 1999, as first intended. This de-

lay has sparked concerns in some areas of the City of prolonged in-fighting between the various City regulators.

Mr Darling said: "The government never announces the programme for coming legislation. All I can say is the bill will be published in draft form in the summer." He added: "We are committed to consulting as widely as possible. We

want a system that will endure, and time listening is time well spent."

Some of the delegates at the conference expressed concerns about integrating regulation of wholesale financial services - transactions between two financial institutions - and retail financial services - transactions between financial institutions and the general public. Dele-

gates said the culture of regulating wholesale activities was very different from that of regulating retail financial services. One said: "The consultative documents produced so far by the FSA have been very consumerist in tone. The wholesale financial community would like the FSA to spell out very clearly the line that divides wholesale and retail regulation."

Howard Davies, chairman of the FSA, who made the opening address at the conference, called EU legislative procedures "cumbersome" and ill-suited to the needs of the financial community.

Mr Davies called for a greater degree of flexibility in EU laws covering financial markets.

Outlook, this page

Billionaire backs Rolls consortium

By Michael Harrison

THE GROUP of Rolls-Royce owners battling to keep the famous luxury car maker in British hands is being bankrolled by an unnamed American billionaire, it emerged yesterday.

Michael Shrimpton, the Bentley-driving barrister and self-styled chairman of the Crewe Motors consortium, said yesterday that in addition to the US billionaire, he had the backing of a British clearing bank.

Mr Shrimpton said the consortium would submit its bid by tomorrow in a last-ditch effort to prevent Rolls-Royce Motor Cars being taken over by one of two German bidders, Volkswagen and BMW.

But he refused to disclose the name of the clearing bank, or any of the consortium's other backers. He said Crewe Motors, named after the location of the Rolls-Royce factory, would better the £430m bid tabled by VW and would match the DM1bn it has pledged to invest in the Rolls product range

over the next five years. "Rolls-Royce is our flagship. It is the industrial rose of England," Mr Shrimpton said.

The group, which is being advised by the small British private client broker Butterfield Securities and Financial Dynamics, intended to announce its bid formally along with the unnamed clearing bank by tomorrow at the latest.

The consortium doubts that Vickers, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars' parent company, will have time to recommend the offer. But Mr Shrimpton said he was hoping to get a postponement of Friday's extraordinary shareholders' meeting called to approve the VW bid.

He said the offer would be 80 per cent equity financed and 20 per cent funded by debt and that DM1bn of investment over five years was a "realistic sum".

A spokesman for Vickers confirmed it had not yet received a firm offer from the Crewe Motors consortium, but said all new offers would be assessed.

Outlook, this page

Goldman Sachs partners in talks on flotation

By Lea Paterson

PARTNERS in Goldman Sachs, one of the few remaining privately-owned investment banks, discussed floating the firm at meetings over the weekend, sources close to the firm said yesterday.

The news has fuelled speculation that partners will vote on the issue at their annual meeting in a fortnight's time. Partners in Goldman Sachs could net up to \$100m (£60m) each if plans to float the company are approved.

Prominent London-based partners include Gavin Davies, the leading UK economist with close ties to Labour, and Peter Sutherland, formerly an EC trade commissioner.

Two hundred Goldman Sachs managers could each receive a "consolation prize" of up to \$5m, according to banking sources. The windfalls would be an attempt to compensate the so-called "marzipan layer" of management, who would miss out on

the chance to attain the coveted status of partner if the bank were to decide on a flotation.

Members of Goldman's partnership committee and operating committee are believed to have discussed the issue of flotation at a two-day meeting at the end of last week.

Jon Corzine, the chairman and chief executive, was present, as was Henry Paulson, who was yesterday appointed as Mr Corzine's co-chairman and chief executive, the third time the firm has had co-chief executives in 25 years.

Other members of Goldman's ruling executive committee were not believed to have been present at the meeting - which was convened to address a whole range of strategic issues.

The company has already considered - and decided against - flotation on six occasions, most recently in 1996, when Mr Corzine ruled out the option after informal discussions at the bank's annual gen-

eral meeting. Some sources estimate Mr Corzine, a long-standing partner, could net as much as \$800m (£480m) if the float goes through.

Opponents of flotation say it would destroy Goldman's unique partnership culture which many see as being the foundation of the firm's success. Others, though, believe the firm needs the capital if it is to keep up with its acquisition-hungry rivals like Travelers and Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.

Stock market conditions are also ripe for a flotation, with financial stocks achieving record ratings. Analysts believe the 130-year-old partnership could be worth \$20bn (£12bn), a price tag which would result in windfalls of \$60m for even the most junior partners, according to estimates.

When Goldman Sachs was mulling the issue of flotation back in 1996, analysts reckoned the bank could trade at a maximum of 1.5 times book value, putting a value on the partnership of up to \$10bn (£6bn).

Asia crisis offsets Japan's successes

JAPANESE shares fell further yesterday as a sell-off in other Asian stock markets and bearish comments by one of the country's leading bankers fuelled worries over the region's economic turmoil.

The Nikkei index of 225 leading Japanese stocks suffered its biggest fall in three weeks, losing 2.23 per cent to close at 15,321.03, as investors took fright at falls in other Asian markets and the weakness of the yen against the dollar, which rose as high as 139.67 yen, its strongest level for almost seven years.

Toru Hashimoto, chairman of Fuji Bank, said yesterday that he expected economic turbulence in Asia to offset the beneficial effects on Japanese economic growth of a government fiscal stimulus package.

"My view is the Japanese economy will grow by about one per cent this year as opposed to the two per cent forecast by the government," he said in Vienna, where he was attending an international monetary con-

ference. "This will add 1.5-two per cent to GDP growth but the turmoil in Asia has a negative impact of about two per cent. Therefore the positive and negative factors will cancel each other out."

If he wins re-election in elections to be held on 12 July, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto is expected to introduce a programme of tax cuts designed to stimulate economic activity.

Meanwhile Lawrence Summers, the US deputy Treasury Secretary, also speaking in Vienna on Monday, said: "Growth and inflation should now be Japan's central economic priority."

Mr Summers said it was also essential to address problems of the financial sector to restore confidence and avoid a credit crunch.

He urged the Japanese government to move faster in closing down insolvent banks and adopt a more determined approach to making asset markets more liquid.

Sun Life official 'lied over funds'

By Andrew Verity

THE HEAD of Sun Life of Canada was personally responsible for company funds which were last week found to hide a £284m black hole after a senior colleague lied about funds to a court. *The Independent* has learnt.

Donald Stewart, who became the company's chief executive at the beginning of April - replacing John McNeil, who resigned - and is in charge of steering it to a multi-billion pound flotation next year, signed actuarial certificates in 1996 confirming the veracity of the company's finances in the previous year.

In an unprecedented ruling, a Canadian judge confirmed that Robert J Sharkey, one of Mr Stewart's senior colleagues, had lied to a court when he referred to funds in a case brought against the company by an aggrieved policyholder.

In an Ontario appeal court, Mr Justice Maurice Cullity found that Mr Sharkey, who resigned from the company a month ago, had given fraudulent testimony when he referred to three funds worth £540m as consisting of long-term assets.

The long-term nature of the funds was used as evidence in a 1995 claim by Joel Vale, a Toronto-based landlord who had been refused permission to redeem three mortgages early. The company claimed the mortgages could not be redeemed because they were held in a long-term fund backing long-term obligations to policyholders.

After Mr Vale investigated, he discovered that in one fund alone, 50 per cent of the fund's value consisted of short-term mortgages with terms of less than 10 years. His findings were supported in a sworn affidavit by an independent actuary, Ian Baker. While Sun Life of Canada won the case, Mr Sharkey was found to have misled the court.

Mr Stewart was chief actuary of Sun Life of Canada at the time the evidence was given, however, there is no suggestion that he was involved in giving fraudulent evidence. He is a director of Sun Life Holdings, the main branch of Sun Life of Canada in the UK. The company has 300,000 British policyholders, one-third of whom hope to benefit from windfall payouts when the mutual company floats within a year.

As chief actuary in 1995, Mr Stewart also signed actuarial returns to the Department of Trade and Industry relating to UK business. In 1996 it admitted it had understated liabilities in these DTI returns by £124.4m - 20 per cent of the fund's value.

Russia's rouble trouble could destroy the whole of the European economy



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SUDDENLY there is a new worry for the markets - Russia. Up to now Russia has hardly ever come up on the radar as a potential hazard. We have been right through the revolution, the collapse of the rouble, the dramatic decline in the country's output, and most recently, the modest signs of recovery, without the West paying much attention.

The reason is simple: though, if you measure it properly, the Russian economy is still very large, it only interacts with the West at a limited number of points.

We don't buy much from them; they don't buy much from us. We used not to do much trade because under communism most of the region's economic activity was centrally-directed trade between Russia and its satellites in Eastern Europe. Nowadays we don't do much trade because though there is great potential, the economic chaos has inhibited its growth.

So why has the world suddenly started to worry? Two reasons. First, while the Russian economy is not directly of much importance to the rest of the developed world, the emerging economies of Eastern Europe

are, and trouble in Russia puts pressure on these.

Second, Russia is an additional source of potential instability for the West's banks - it matters in financial terms more than it matters in economic terms.

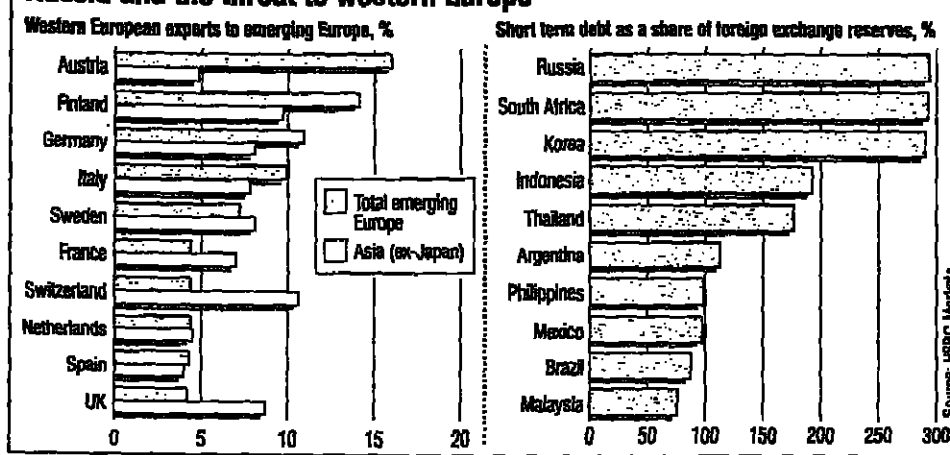
The Eastern European economic story is a fascinating one. You probably haven't realised (I hadn't, until I saw some figures dug out by HSBC Markets) that Eastern Europe is the fastest-growing export market for the UK. Exports to the region are running more than 30 per cent up year-on-year.

Russia itself accounts for only 0.6 per cent of our exports, but "emerging Europe", economic-speak for the former Comecon countries, accounts for 4.2 per cent. That is nearly half as much as Asia excluding Japan. For some other European countries the export dependence is even larger: Germany exports nearly 11 per cent of its output to emerging Europe, Italy nearly 10 per cent, in both cases larger than their exports to Asia - see left-hand graph.

So if the Russian troubles extend to the rest of Eastern Europe, the whole European economy is clobbered.

The mechanism which might link the two is a sharp devaluation of the rouble. Over the last couple of years the rouble has

Russia and the threat to western Europe



provoke a more general economic crisis in Russia itself.

Why is everyone talking, then, about a rouble devaluation? Russia has run into a liquidity crunch. The problem is not so much its total indebtedness, but rather the excessive short-term nature of its debts.

Short-term debt relative to foreign exchange reserves (right-hand graph) is desperately, ludicrously, high. You do not need to be an economic expert to realise that if you have too many short-term borrowings you are vulnerable to any loss of confidence.

You have to keep rolling over these borrowings to avoid default, and if confidence slips you may find it difficult to keep the paper circulating. The dan-

increasing their lending sharply during the last couple of years.

Even in a worst possible case, it is very hard to see default in Russia requiring the formal rescue of any major bank, but the threat is one more point of pressure. Just at the moment when Russia needs to borrow more from the banks to lengthen the maturity of its debt, it finds that the main banks who might lend it the money are feeling twitchy about new loans.

Yesterday talks were reported to be taking place in Frankfurt between Deutsche Bank and a Russian government team to see if the banks could do a bigish syndicated loan of say \$5-6bn.

But it is hard to see that hap-

pening until and unless the main industrial countries organise some kind of more general bail-out involving the IMF.

Talks on lending to Russia take place this week at the IMF in Washington. I suppose something will be cobbled together, but there is always a danger in these situations that the negotiators make a mistake.

The big issue here, though, is not whether and on what terms the IMF and the banks lend to Russia, but whether the

Brown to reveal plans for venture capital

By Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

GORDON BROWN is expected to indicate plans to improve tax incentives for investment in venture capital at a conference he is hosting in London today. The conference, held under the auspices of the European Commission and City of London, will also see the announcement of two new venture capital funds amounting to well over £100m.

The need to increase the scale of finance for start-up businesses, especially in high technology, was one of the themes of March's Budget.

The Chancellor then announced an improved Enterprise Investment Scheme, with greater tax incentives but excluding the least risky investments, and a £50m University Challenge Fund for scientists working in universities to bid for "seed" capital.

Of that fund, £20m was provided by the Government, £20m by the Wellcome Trust and £10m by the Gatsby Trust, and the rest

by other private sector sources.

Mr Brown also indicated that he would be exploring ways to improve incentives for managers in high technology start-up companies through "equity based remuneration". Stock option schemes for entrepreneurs have played a large part in fuelling the enormous boom in hi-tech venture capital in the US.

Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, said yesterday that the Government was concerned about both the small size of the UK venture capital industry and its focus on management buyouts rather than financing start-up businesses.

The amount available for new start-ups in the UK was just over £1bn compared to nearly £38bn in the US last year - much smaller relative to the size of the economy on this side of the Atlantic. The £1bn also compares to finance for management buyouts expected to reach as much as £20bn this year.

In addition, just 10 per cent of the start-up finance in the

UK went to high technology companies compared to 70 per cent in the US.

The UK accounts for 44 per cent of the EU venture capital market. But even though Britain is well ahead of the rest of Europe, the Treasury's Growth Unit has concluded that encouraging venture capital is one way to foster a more entrepreneurial culture.

In a recent speech to the CBI, Mr Brown said: "We need a new approach in Britain to risk-taking. We need to increase the number of entrepreneurs and to raise the survival rate of small businesses."

Other speakers at today's conference include France's finance minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, European Commissioner Mario Monti and Sir Brian Unwin, president of the European Investment Bank.

The funds due to be unveiled today will include some investment by the EIB although private finance will play the dominant role.

Outlook, page 25

Hillsdown counters rumours after £1.6bn bid talks collapse

HILLSDOWN Holdings, the food-to-housebuilding group, yesterday sought to counter speculation that its business performance was poor by announcing that operating profits for the first four months of the year were "broadly in line with those for the similar period in 1997".

Hillsdown's statement followed Friday's surprise decision by Unigate, the UK's second largest dairy producer, to pull out of £1.6bn takeover talks with Hillsdown because of "differences" over Hillsdown's future prospects.

Hillsdown, the maker of Chivers jam and Typhoo tea, announced earlier this month that it will sell or spin off one-third of its businesses to lift

slowing profit growth. The group said that its internal forecasts for 1998 show profits consistent with market expectations. It said it made the comments "as a result of certain comments in the press and to counter speculation".

The speculation was that Unigate had decided to withdraw because it could not support Hillsdown's view of their own prospects after being shown certain information about trading at Hillsdown.

The company's poultry division was hit by the strength of the pound which cut export revenue, although performance will likely improve in the second half, it said. The furniture and housebuilding divisions, which the company plans to

shed, are performing strongly, it said.

The first four months of the year account for about 15 to 20 per cent of profit, Hillsdown said. "Current internal forecasts" show pre-tax profit for the year ending 31 December to be "consistent with market expectations," Hillsdown said.

Merrill Lynch said it had reversed its downgrade published on Friday following the termination of talks between Unigate and Hillsdown.

The investment bank said it expected Unigate stock to recover some of the 10 per cent it has lost since speculation of a bid for Hillsdown emerged.

Hillsdown shares closed down 2.5p at 180.5p. Unigate shares fell 0.5p to 664.5p.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 month	D-Mark	Spot	1 month	3 month
UK	10000			0.6080	0.6080		
Australia	26555	26555	26555	1.6271	1.6271		
Canada	20107	20107	20107	0.6918	0.6918		
Denmark	10000	10000	10000	0.1366	0.1366		
France	10000	10000	10000	0.1665	0.1665		
Germany	10000	10000	10000	1.0000	1.0000		
Italy	10000	10000	10000	0.1936	0.1936		
Japan	10000	10000	10000	0.0094	0.0094		
Netherlands	10000	10000	10000	0.2036	0.2036		
Spain	10000	10000	10000	0.1665	0.1665		
Sweden	10000	10000	10000	0.1366	0.1366		
Switzerland	10000	10000	10000	0.7556	0.7556		
US	10000	10000	10000	0.7556	0.7556		

Other Spot Rates

Country	Spot	Dollar	Country	Spot	Dollar
Argentina	16400	10000	Oman	0.6918	0.6918
Brazil	18883	10000	Philippines	72.254	10000
China	13.75	10000	Poland	3.525	10000
Czech Rep	33.60	10000	Romania	3.525	10000
Egypt	5.581	10000	Russia	0.0094	10000
Greece	339.00	10000	Saudi Arabia	0.0094	10000
Hungary	339.00	10000	South Africa	0.0094	10000
India	88.45	10000	Thailand	0.0094	10000
Indonesia	1920.00	10000	UK	0.0094	10000
Kuwait	0.0094	10000	US	0.0094	10000
Singapore	0.0094	10000			

Interest Rates

UK	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	10.0%	12.5%	15.0%	17.5%	20.0%
Base Rate	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
3 month	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
6 month	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
1 year	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
2 year	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
3 year	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
4 year	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
5 year	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%

Money Market Rates

Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
UK	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
US	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Japan	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Germany	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
France	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Italy	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Spain	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Sweden	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Switzerland	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
US	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%

Life Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Settlement	Open
UK Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
5 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
10 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
30 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
UK Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
5 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
10 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
30 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01

Commodity Indices

Index	Settlement	High	Low	Settlement	Open
UK Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
5 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
10 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
30 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
UK Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
5 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
10 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
30 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01

Industrial Metals

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Settlement	Open
UK Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
5 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
10 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
30 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
UK Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
5 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
10 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
30 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01

Other Softs

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Settlement	Open
UK Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
5 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
10 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
30 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
UK Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
5 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
10 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
30 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01

Latest Unit Trust Prices

Fund	Settlement	High	Low	Settlement	Open
UK Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
5 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
10 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
30 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
UK Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
5 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
10 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
30 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01

How to pick the best funds

Fund	Settlement	High	Low	Settlement	Open
UK Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
5 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
10 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
30 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
UK Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
5 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
10 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01
30 Yr Govt	Jun-98	103.01	103.01	103.01	103.01

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High Int	92.30	102.00	0.00
High Int Acc	92.30	102.00	0.00
HighIncomeVezuz	12.70	12.70	0.00
High Income	29.00	29.00	0.00
Income Pklo Acc	93.60	94.00	0.00
Income	76.00	76.00	0.00
Intl Bond	33.00	34.00	0.00
Japan Growth Acc	71.75	78.00	0.00
Japan Growth Acc	71.75	78.00	0.00
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England's talisman out of condition and out in the cold

ONE THING you can say about Glenn Hoddle's period as England coach is that he is not afraid to make the big decision and leaving Paul Gascoigne out of the World Cup has to count as the biggest decision of all. Whether you agree, or disagree, you can only salute the manager's boldness in making it.

There was no hint that he was not going to be among the final 22 and that added to the sense of shock as the news filtered through. I was at home when a friend who works in radio telephoned. We were all anticipating the announcement of the squad, who was in and who was out, and this was not what we were expecting to hear. Over the last few months Glenn has intimated that Gascoigne was an integral part of his team, certainly of his squad, and we all assumed he would be going to France.

I have seen all three England games over

the past 10 days and I have to say that he did look short of full fitness. This meant he was unable to do the things that make him the player he is. Gazza is a sublime talent and we all wish we were gifted with the assets he can call upon, but if you are less than fully fit, then not even an individual with Paul's ability can go past people or initiate those defence-splitting passes.

As you get older fitness becomes paramount. Gascoigne turned 31 last week and while age should never be a barrier in football (Italy have included Bergomi at 37 and Belgium have recalled Van der Elst at the same age), it becomes more and more imperative to make sure you do the right things to enhance your physical condition.

Train hard, rest a great deal, eat and drink the right things. That is the regime to follow and a player has to take responsibility for his own fitness. It cannot be denied that

Sometimes talent is not enough. Ray Wilkins, former England captain, on the lessons of Gascoigne's demise

Gazza has come back from terrible injuries and while a couple of nights out with the lads won't kill anyone, you have to look after your body. The vast majority of today's players, both in the Premiership and in the lower leagues, are well aware of that.

It was interesting that Glenn used the term "athletes" when referring to the German and Brazilian teams. If you look at the domestic game, Manchester United and Arsenal are vying the same way: bringing players into the club who are good technical players, but who are also capable of getting around the pitch and sustaining a high physical output for 90 minutes.

This World Cup will be played in searing heat with only a few days in between

games and that was why Glenn was so concerned about Gascoigne. It would not have been a decision to take without a lot of heart-searching and he will have studied Gazza closely over the last week in Spain. England's first group game is still two weeks away, but he was not convinced he could gain full fitness in time. It also wouldn't be an option to use him in short spells here or there as a substitute. You take a player to the World Cup for what he can do over 90 minutes - not nine.

It's a great shame both for the country and the player, but Glenn's decision was not just about Gascoigne alone. There were five other players the coach was forced to disappoint and I feel for them all. They have

let nobody down and in the case of Dion Dublin his hopes must have been high after such a splendid season for Coventry.

Once he had assured himself of Darren Anderton's ability to cope with the demands of the tournament, Glenn's decision to plan ahead without Gascoigne would have become easier. Anderton has done well to recover his fitness after a long period on the sidelines and as a younger man he can sustain his energies over a tournament so much better. We also know from Euro '96 that the Tottenham player is capable of shrugging off more or less a full season's inactivity and quickly find form and conditioning again.

Obviously, England will miss the qualities that a fit Gascoigne would bring to any side, but all is not lost and I certainly don't agree with those who say we will be a lot less effective without him. David Beckham and Paul Scholes can become the creative impetus

for the side, not to the same extent that Gascoigne can achieve but in a different way. We can have greater movement in midfield and with younger legs we can be more competitive. And in players like Anderton and Steve McManaman we have the means to run at opponents and unsettle them.

We will miss his influence in the dressing-room. Scotland have a similar situation now that Craig Brown has decided not to take Ally McCoist to France. Ally is probably the best player I have ever been around in a dressing-room. He was the life and soul of the place and when you are away with a group of players for a long period of time it is vital to have those sort of guys who can keep the atmosphere vibrant. But we've always been a nation that pulls together and in tournaments like this, players we perhaps weren't expecting to grab our attention come to the fore both on and off the pitch.

No place for mavericks in this age of team men

Pat Nevin, the Scotland international, ponders the passing of the prima donna, the entertainer who plays to the crowd

JUST about every country has at least one, others are blessed (or cursed) with a few. Scotland can lay claim to Duncan Ferguson as their maverick, England had Paul Gascoigne and Matthew Le Tissier. The French can boast David Ginola, while over the years the Dutch have managed to produce teams full of them.

From Northern Ireland's super maverick, George Best, to the Brazilian Rai, these most individual of individuals have obliged managers to try various methods of coping with them. The problem for the men in charge is that any football fan with the most basic knowledge can see that, usually, these players possess more raw talent than most of the rest of the team put together.

However, even some of the greatest managers have failed to help these mavericks to maximise their potential and produce more than just sporadic moments of brilliance. Leaving Gazza out of England's squad for the World Cup finals in France at the last moment, simply signalled that Glenn Hoddle had finally run out of patience.

Even Sir Matt Busby could only keep George Best at the top for a mere seven or eight years, a criminal waste, and Jock Stein acknowledged the difficulty of keeping such talented players at their peak and making their optimum contribution to the team. He said of Jimmy Johnstone: "My greatest achievement in football was to keep that wee man playing football five years longer than he otherwise would have."

In an era when the game was less professional, there was a wider margin for error and defeat didn't have a crippling financial cost, a team could carry the occasional prima donna who appeared to play more for himself than for the team. Now that there is less scope for teams to take chances, particularly at international level, the role of the maverick has been marginalised almost to the point of extinction.

Craig Brown told me how he, as Scotland's manager, deals with these players - indeed if he would even bother to work with them at all. "I learned a lot from watching and talking to Jack Charlton when he took over the Irish job," Brown said. "[Liam] Brady and [Frank] Stapleton were the top stars but they were bombed out almost immediately because Jack didn't think they were playing the way he wanted them to. Nothing personal, they were fine players, but they weren't fitting into his system. Jack took a huge amount of stick at the time but, of course, he did have great success in the end with his methods."

But having said that, Brown was at pains to stress that he is not dismissive of Duncan Ferguson's potential contribution to his national team. "If he would have made himself available he could have been used in certain circumstances," he said.

It isn't just the kick and rush teams having to make the most of the limited number of players available that have turned their backs on these players. Even the Brazilians, the champions of style and individualism, have had to accept that talent needs to be allied to workrate and overall respect for the team ethic.

Carlos Alberto Parreira, the Brazilian who will be guiding Saudi Arabia through France '98, has explained why the talented Rai was replaced in Brazil's team by the less gifted, ageing stalwart Dunga. Rai failed to follow tactical orders precisely, whereas Dunga appreciated his

A glimpse of their gifts: Six talents who failed to fulfil their potential at international level



Rebels without applause: (clockwise from top left) Scotland's Duncan Ferguson; England's Paul Gascoigne; Ireland's Liam Brady; France's David Ginola and Eric Cantona; and Brazil's Rai

true importance in relation to the team and the country.

Nowadays, there are even conferences where the biggest names in world football discuss how, and indeed if, hot-shot mavericks can be integrated into a team. The leading coaches are more and more coming round to the idea that the breed's failures far outnumber

their successes the higher up the ladder they go.

One of his biggest influences on thinking in this area has been Hilary Owen, of the Red Arrows, through his book "Creating Top Flight Teams". "The group dynamics were explained in wonderful detail. They had to live together as a unit because they knew that up there if you

didn't trust your team mates you had no chance. Hot shot or not, it was at least as important to be a good colleague as it was to be a good flyer."

Many now think that the best way to employ a maverick is as a substitute, a wild card to be thrown on either in a crisis or to try to break a stalemate between two well matched outfits.

It is amazing that Glenn Hoddle is not even giving Gazza this bit part.

The problem, of course, is that these maestros don't usually take kindly to being asked to play second fiddle. I recall one swaggering star commenting after his international debut, which happened to be a friendly: "I can't get my head

right for these part games, I need the real thing."

Because of the modern approach to such players, this World Cup will see fewer of the "entertainers" than previous ones have. As each commentator, journalist or fan settles down for a game the first thing they want to know is who is the star, who is the one player ca-

pable of that moment of genius which will raise people out of their seats? The problem is, that player is likely to be sitting down himself, either on the bench or, like Gazza, on his sofa at home. All we are left to wonder at this time is the magnificent, Balkan belligerence of the ageing Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov or his Romanian counterpart, George Hagi.

So while we may pine for the unpredictable excesses of Gascoigne, the indolent individualism of Le Tissier or the Gallic strut of a new Eric Cantona, the coaches will not miss them quite as much. Unless, of course, the player in question is as good as the king of them all, Diego Maradona. Then he doesn't need a team, he can win a World Cup almost single-handedly, as England know to their cost.

Was Hoddle right to send Gascoigne home? A nation divided by the extrovert England midfielder's early exit...

"There is no reaction." Buckingham Palace spokesman.
"My feeling is it's the right decision. I expect the England team to do even better now." Tony Banks, Sports Minister.
"We are not surprised, many sportsmen say that smoking affects their performance. Our offer of a personal smoking cessation counsellor for Gazza remains open if he would like help." Gail, smokers' hotline.
"He had had one of our kebabs, he had made the squad." Salsamba takeaway restaurant, east London.
"He's devastated. He thought he'd earned his place over 10 years, not the last four weeks."

Nobody expected this... people are gutted, totally gutted. Chris Evans, DJ and friend.
"The most sensational story to hit English football in years." Boro Live!ers, Middlesbrough clubcall, playing the matter down.
"I've got a ticket for the World Cup and I'm seriously thinking of not going." Caller to Radio Five Live.
"He's been trying to burn the candle at both ends, allowing his social life to affect his football. I don't have much sympathy, he's brought it on himself." Brush manufacturers Brushes North West.
"I empathise with Glenn Hoddle, having had to make hard selection decisions myself. The

proof of his judgement will be in England's results." Mike Atherton, former England cricket captain.
"He's only just turned 31. He's got plenty of football left in him." Bryan Robson, Middlesbrough manager.
"It's a brave decision, a hard one, but you have to say that the manager in that environment knows better than anybody." Bobby Gould, Wales manager.
"All the [Wales] players are amazed. None of us expected it. Maybe if it had been done earlier, [Nigel] Le Tissier might have still been involved." Paul Jones, Southampton and Wales goalkeeper.

"Hoddle was going to get slaughtered whatever he did. Take Gazza and people would have complained. Now he's not taking him and people will also question what he's done." Dean Saunders, Wales striker.
"Knowing Gazza, as I do, he'll be gutted. To say he'll be devastated and heartbroken is an understatement because he loves playing for England." Stuart McColl, former Rangers team-mate.
"I don't agree with Glenn's decision, and I can't see that his fitness can be used as a major influence for leaving him out. There are other players who are equally unfit who are going to France. It is something perhaps he will

never get over." Trevor Steven, another former Rangers colleague.
"It's the right decision, but what has amazed me is that England have carried him for so long. His attitude has been wrong and his behaviour over several years has to be questioned. Hoddle should have dumped him a while ago." Tommy Docherty, former Manchester United manager.
"Don't write Gazza off. He'll be more determined than ever to prove he's still got it in him." Chris Waddle, former England and Tottenham team-mate.

Guy Hodgson

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Garrincha the hero as 'war' breaks out

Haynes recalls the finals which ended the era of Winterbottom and Haynes amid broken legs and the shattered illusions of the naïve

UNDETERMINED, pedestrian, not up to much in the air, suspect stalling — how could England select young Bobby Moore of West Ham for the 1962 World Cup finals in Chile? They did, launching a celebrated international career: 108 caps and Pele's accolade, "the best defender I ever faced".

Added to the squad only as an afterthought, Moore, then 21, could scarcely have expected to be in the frame, but never looked back after selection for England's final warm-up game against Peru in Lima.

Moore's emergence, his first international steps taken as an all-purpose wing-half not as the unassuming perceptive central defender he would soon become, was England's one plus from a World Cup that Johnny Haynes remembers in one word — "crap".

By then England's captain was finding international football less enjoyable. Taking Brazil's example from 1958 of 4-2-4 (often made 4-3-3 by their industrious outside-left Mario Zagallo) many coaches had gone to the flat defence that made it more difficult for Haynes and others of his type to switch play and create openings with long through passes.

Not that Haynes's blunt description relates only to personal disappointment. If the 1990 finals are generally considered to be the worst on record those of 1962, marred by cynicism and violent play, were instantly forgettable.

From all four centres, Santiago, Arica, Val del Mar and Rancagua, came reports of bad temper and serious injury. Less than a week after the opening match it was announced that there had already been more than 40 casualties among the 16 teams. The Soviet Union full-back Dubinski, Colombia's captain, Zuluzaga, and the Swiss inside-left, Eschmann, were in hospital with broken legs. Bulgaria had lost their centre-for-

ward, Hristov, and outside-right, Djev, for the duration of the tournament.

Four players had been sent off, two, David and Ferrini of Italy, by the Ilford schoolmaster Ken Aston (later described as a man among boys and a boy among men). A headline in the Santiago newspaper, *Clarín*, said, "World War".

Summoned to appear before the World Cup Organising Committee, the 16 managers were warned that further rough play could result in expulsion from the tournament. "We weren't involved but I'd never known anything like it," Haynes said, "never been more glad to get out of a place."

Criticised in 1958 for choosing a large Stockholm hotel as England's headquarters, Walter Winterbottom had accepted an invitation from the American-owned Braden Copper Company to pitch camp at Coya, a small settlement perched at 2,500 feet in the Andes and an hour's drive from Rancagua, where group games against Hungary, Argentina and Bulgaria were being played.

"Living two to a bungalow and cooked for by an Englishwoman, the players had no complaints about their quarters. "We were well looked after," Haynes recalled, "but boredom became a problem and it was a bit hairy coming down that mountain for matches."

With only four centres available, the distances involved left no time for play-offs and replays. Consequently, the mood was set by the organising committee's decision that goal average should count in the first phase and if teams were still level their fate would be settled by drawing lots. "It meant that nobody took risks," Haynes recalled, "and led to a lot of nastiness."

Coached by Juan Carlos Lorenzo — who would be in charge of Atletico Madrid when three of their players were sent



England's line-up in the 3-1 defeat by Brazil: Back row (left to right): Jimmy Armfield, Ron Flowers, Ron Springett, Maurice Norman, Bobby Charlton, Bobby Moore; Front row (left to right): Bryan Douglas, Jimmy Greaves, Johnny Haynes, Ray Wilson, Gerry Hitchens. Photograph: Popperfoto



ENGLAND AT THE WORLD CUP 1962 Chile

GROUP 4

England 1 Hungary 2
England 3 Argentina 1
England 0 Bulgaria 0

QUARTER-FINALS

Brazil 3 England 1
Chile 2 USSR 1
Yugoslavia 1 W Germany 0
Czechoslovakia 1 Hungary 0

SEMI-FINALS

Brazil 4 Chile 2
Czechoslovakia 3 Yugoslavia 1
FINAL
Brazil 3 Czechoslovakia 1

off against Celtic, and the Lazio team that attacked Arsenal outside a restaurant — Argentina (giving a hint of things to come) soon revealed the darker side of their nature, playing brutally against Bulgaria.

Meanwhile, England were

about to meet up again with their old tormentors, Hungary. Again they lost, not by the crushing scores of 1953 and 1954, just 2-1 this time, but clearly enough to undermine confidence. "We didn't get going," Haynes said, "and it

didn't help when fewer than 3,000 spectators showed up. I'd played in front of bigger crowds as a boy in Fulham's reserves."

It was no time to be facing Argentina. In fact, England were transformed and Ar-

gentina behaved themselves, possibly because of the respect their coach had for Winterbottom after attending a course at Lillehall.

"When Argentina failed to qualify from the group Lorenzo told me that he was frightened to go home," Winterbottom recalled many years later.

A 3-1 victory and later a 0-0 draw against Bulgaria, with both teams needing only one point to go through, had altered the perception of England's chances, but Brazil were waiting for them. "It was a relief to discover that Pele was still injured [out of the finals entirely with a groin injury]," Haynes said. "On the other hand we were up against Garrincha, who was also capable of winning a match on his own."

Crippled from birth, his legs bowed in parallel, barely literate, Garrincha would die prematurely, ending up as a poverty-stricken alcoholic, but 1962 saw the glorious flowering of his outrageous gifts. "How do you set about stopping the unstoppable?" Haynes said. "Walter [Winterbottom] talked a lot about possible ways of dealing with Garrincha and warned especially about his free-kicks which were as dan-

gerous then as Roberto Carlos's are now."

To no avail. Garrincha scored twice, in the 31st and 59th minutes (England had drawn level in the 39th when Jimmy Greaves's shot rebounded from the bar to Gerry Hitchens) and finished off England shortly after half-time with a rocket free-kick that went from Ron Springett's fingers to Vava.

Having already announced his retirement as manager, hoping to succeed Stanley Rous as FA secretary — a role for which he was eminently suitable but denied him by muddled thinking — Winterbottom wondered if England would ever be up to the task of winning a World Cup.

"Garrincha's free-kick emphasised our naivety," he said. "Players standing around instead of causing a commotion when Brazil altered the position of the ball so that Garrincha could get a clearer sight of goal. It's the way we've been brought up but not the way to win World Cup matches."

Injured in a car crash three months later, Haynes, now 62 and living in Edinburgh, had turned out for the last time in England's colours.

Final farewell as Hall resigns

By Simon Turnbull

LIKE the team that lost its way in the Premiership campaign just ended, and which was unable to find its bearings beyond the Wembley tunnel on FA Cup final day, Newcastle United were a football club without direction last night.

Sir John Hall's final departure from St James' Park left both the board of the football club and the board of its parent company, Newcastle United plc, without a leader.

It had been assumed, after Sir Terence Harrison's resignation as chairman of the club last week, that Sir John would continue as chairman of the football club beyond the 31 May deadline agreed in March, following the resignations of his son, Douglas, and Freddie Shepherd. But in a statement to the Stock Market yesterday afternoon Newcastle United plc said the multi-millionaire property director was "stepping down, as intended, after returning to help steer the club through a difficult period."

Sir John made his ultimately unexpected departure without passing comment. He was out of the country yesterday, on holiday yesterday with his wife, Lady Mae. Only two weeks ago, he said he had arranged a mid-summer "think tank" involving all heads of department at St James' Park, including the team manager, Kenny Dalglish. But Alastair Wilson, Newcastle's public relations director, said last night: "When Sir John came back in March, he said he would stay until the end of May and that's exactly what has happened."

The resignations last week of Sir Terence and John Mayo, another non-executive director of Newcastle United plc, were understood to be in protest at plans for Douglas Hall and Shepherd to return to the club board. As Sir John's son happens to own 57 per cent of the shares, that would still seem likely — though probably with Denis Cassidy, the one remaining plc director, as overall chairman, and perhaps with chief executive Freddie Fletcher as nominal head of the football club board.

In the meantime, Dalglish continues his squad-building mission. His latest targets are the midfielder Olivier Dacourt and the striker Gerald Butic, both of Strasbourg.

• Stan Ternent, who resigned as Bury's manager yesterday, is expected to be named as Burnley's new manager today.

Blanc worries about French fitness as Yorke jolts Jamaica

By Rupert Meesall

WITH just eight days to go before the World Cup finals start, alarm bells are starting to ring about the fitness of the hosts, the French national team.

The defender Laurent Blanc said he feared his team-mates were tired and losing the ability to dominate opponents with the sheer force of their physical presence. He added he was worried by the performances at

last week's King Hassan tournament in Morocco, particularly the match against the hosts, which finished in a 2-2 draw.

"The French team has a quality which is to be able to raise their physical level to stifle their opponents," Blanc said. "Against Morocco we didn't have this capacity."

Blanc added he was concerned that the hard work done in the French training camp has left the team drained. "I hope

all we've done physically up until now will pay," he said.

The three matches in the first round of the World Cup will be identical [to the Morocco match]. The teams are going to play against us to the death."

The French coach, Aimé Jacquet, did not seem worried, though. "In a week, a decisive week for closing the gaps, everything should come together," he said. His side play their last warm-up in Finland on Friday.

Aston Villa's Dwight Yorke spoiled a World Cup send-off for the Jamaican national team by scoring two second-half goals to give a Caribbean all-star side a 2-1 victory on Sunday.

Chelsea's Frank Sinclair had given Jamaica a 1-0 lead in the 34th minute with a fine individual goal, but Yorke struck with goals in the 62nd and 65th minutes to dampen the enthusiasm of the 38,624 crowd at Giants Stadium in New Jersey.

Yugoslavia's coach, Slobodan Santrac, caused a surprise yesterday when he dropped two regular internationals, the defender Albert Nadj and the forward Anto Drobajak of the French champions, Lens.

Savo Milosevic, recently sold by Aston Villa to Real Zaragoza, and the former Sheffield Wednesday striker Darko Kovacevic, now also in Spain with Real Sociedad, have been preferred up front in the Yugoslav

squad to Drobajak. The former Kilmarnock man, Dragoje Lekovic, is likely to be the first-choice goalkeeper.

Croatia's coach, Miroslav Blazevic, has delayed naming his squad until just before today's deadline, as several key players are recovering from injuries.

Doubts about the fitness of the wing-back Robert Jaru, the full-back Stjepan Tomas and the midfielder Mario Stanic prompted Blazevic to hold back.

Sporting Digest

Athletics

100m: G. Coleman (USA) 10.20; 200m: G. Coleman (USA) 21.00; 400m: G. Coleman (USA) 48.00; 800m: G. Coleman (USA) 1:55.00; 1,600m: G. Coleman (USA) 4:10.00; 3,200m: G. Coleman (USA) 8:20.00; 6,400m: G. Coleman (USA) 16:40.00; 12,800m: G. Coleman (USA) 33:20.00; 25,600m: G. Coleman (USA) 66:40.00; 51,200m: G. Coleman (USA) 133:20.00; 102,400m: G. Coleman (USA) 266:40.00; 204,800m: G. Coleman (USA) 533:20.00; 409,600m: G. Coleman (USA) 1,066:40.00; 819,200m: G. Coleman (USA) 2,133:20.00; 1,638,400m: G. Coleman (USA) 4,266:40.00; 3,276,800m: G. Coleman (USA) 8,533:20.00; 6,553,600m: G. Coleman (USA) 17,066:40.00; 13,107,200m: G. Coleman (USA) 34,133:20.00; 26,214,400m: G. Coleman (USA) 68,266:40.00; 52,428,800m: G. Coleman (USA) 136,533:20.00; 104,857,600m: G. Coleman (USA) 273,066:40.00; 209,715,200m: G. Coleman (USA) 546,133:20.00; 419,430,400m: G. Coleman (USA) 1,092,266:40.00; 838,860,800m: G. Coleman (USA) 2,184,533:20.00; 1,677,721,600m: G. 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Gascoigne discarded 'purely on fitness'

Football

By Glenn Moore
in La Manga, Spain

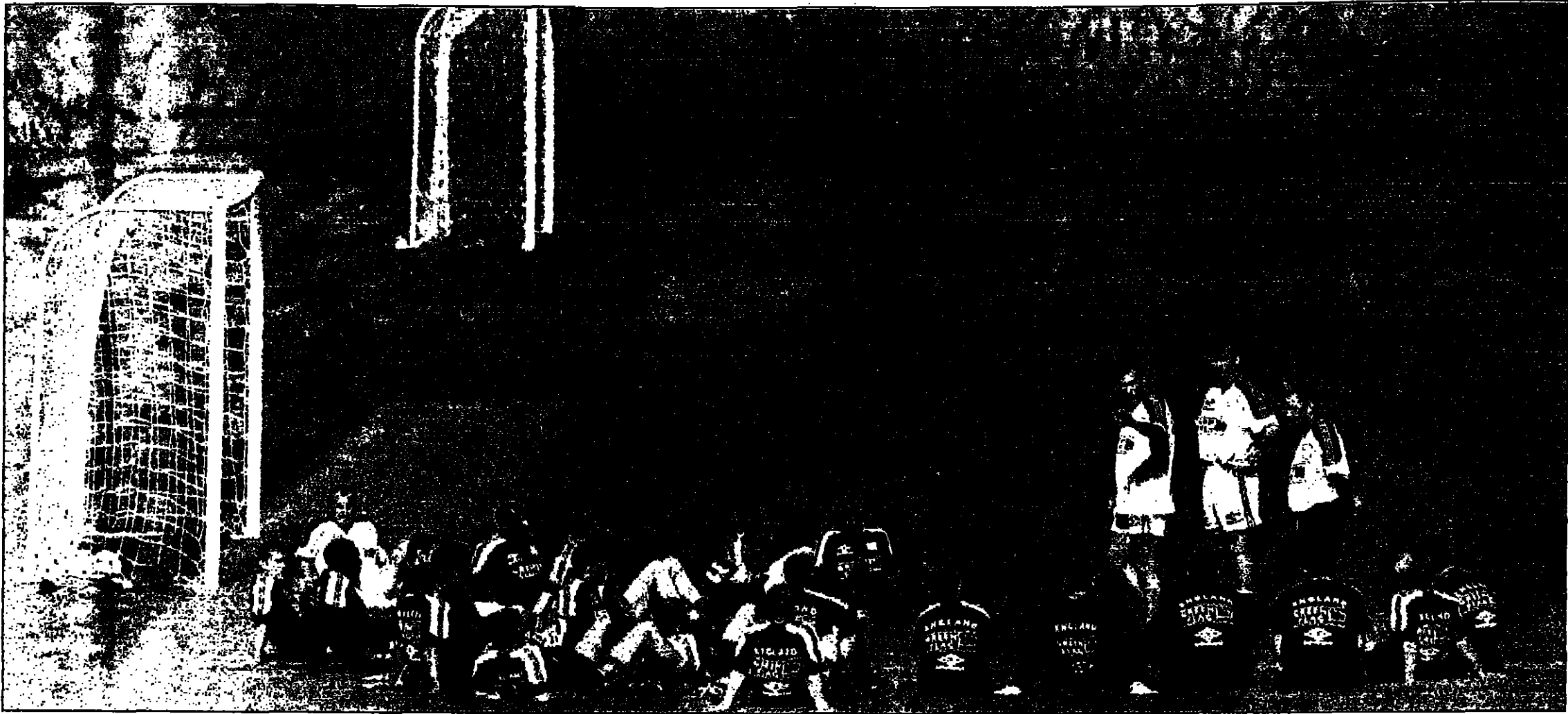
WITH his mirror shades and steely jaw Glenn Hoddle looked every inch the assassin yesterday as he coldly described, on the sun-drenched terrace of the Principe Felipe Hotel, why he had eliminated Paul Gascoigne from his World Cup 22. Facing a phalanx of television cameras, he insisted the decision was based purely on fitness. He needed players who could give him 90 minutes - and Gascoigne could not.

Afterwards, in a small room inside the hotel, with his sunglasses off but guard still up, he described the personal sadness he felt that Gascoigne had not responded to his backing. "I went out on a limb for him," said the England coach. "I tried so many times to make him see what he needed to do, at the age of 31, to deal with the modern game. It is very sad, we'll miss him."

Inevitably rumours have been flourishing as fast as the irrigated grass on the fairways of this artificial golf resort but Hoddle insisted it was purely a football decision. One suggestion, well-sourced, is that Gascoigne got drunk on Saturday night when the team had a social evening in the hotel bar. Another is that he was drinking beer on the golf course.

"I allowed them to have a drink on Saturday night but it was not a silly drink," said Hoddle. "No one got drunk. They've worked hard and deserved it. We had some music, some karaoke, but the staff were there. It was controlled. As for the golf, I didn't play golf with him."

On Friday, after the Belgium game, Hoddle had said Gas-



The England coach, Glenn Hoddle, points out what he expects from his pared down World Cup squad of 22 before their final training session in La Manga, Spain, yesterday

Photograph: Allsport

coigne still had enough time to get sharp, now he said that was no longer the case. What had happened in the interim? "I had time to study the videos and see the game again," said Hoddle.

"Those games in Casablanca were nowhere near as intense as the ones in the World Cup will be but he was still not sharp enough to get away from people. In the modern game you need pace, you have to be an athlete. One of the reasons he gets so many injuries is that he is not fit enough."

"If he was fit he would be in the squad, but he's not at his best physically or mentally. Physically some of it is self-inflicted. He certainly could have been in better shape when he joined up with the squad. He was out of my jurisdiction in the days before then and could have looked after himself better."

That was the period of kebabgate and the late-night drinking binges with the likes of Chris Evans. Given the stakes, such behaviour was perplexing as well as foolish and Hoddle

added: "Mentally he has always had a few problems and I have been able to see, ever since he arrived at Bisham Abbey [before the team went to La Manga] that things are not right."

"I considered whether I could take him and bring him on as a substitute but he is not even in shape for that. It takes time to get into a game and we cannot afford 20 minutes while he does that."

Hoddle did offer some solace to Gascoigne when he said: "I'm not saying his Eng-

land career is over. It depends how he handles it. A fully fit Gascoigne, playing in the Premiership for Middlesbrough next season, would be in contention for a place."

Gascoigne made the right start at least, spending the day with his estranged wife Sheryl, and son Regan, at a health spa in Hertfordshire. Like the other dropped players he will be on informal stand-by until 9 June in case one of the 22 gets injured.

Of the others, Hoddle had the greatest sympathy for Dion

Dublin. "That was the toughest decision. It was between him and Les Ferdinand and, with Ian Wright out, I wanted Les's extra pace. Dion was so close but Les has done remarkably well to get himself fit."

"Andy Hinchcliffe was injured and I didn't think Phil Neville was in the right form. We have been working intensively on other options on the left. Darren Anderton has played there, for instance."

Anderton, however, may play a more pivotal role. "As far

back as a year ago I felt he could be a major asset," said Hoddle. "I had to push him to the limit here, in training and in matches, and his [previously injured] leg has stood up well."

Hoddle, who flew back with the team last night, was particularly pleased to have been able to include Rio Ferdinand. "We've asked him to improve on his defending and he's worked very hard on it. In time he might be able to become the proper sweeper and

allow me to play a system I've been looking to do for some time."

That is for the future. Yesterday the attention remained fixed on the star of England's past. "He still has a lot ahead of him as a player," added Hoddle of Gascoigne.

Time will tell. This could be the shock that will force Gascoigne to look in the mirror, like Tony Adams and Paul Merson before him, admit he is at rock bottom and start a new life. Or it could be the end of him.

Tears and a locked room: the aftermath of the axe

By Glenn Moore

IT ENDED as it had begun, in tears. And then, as so often in Paul Gascoigne's career, it got messy. Gascoigne, according to leaks from within the England camp, reacted to his axing from the World Cup squad by locking himself in his room in despair. Only with the assistance of other players were England able to coax him out, and then put him on a plane back to England.

When Gascoigne was called, early Sunday evening, into the hotel room England's

coaching staff had been using for their planning, he expected to hear the usual pep-talk from the England coach, Glenn Hoddle - "You should be doing better, but I still believe in you, together we can make you great again."

Instead Hoddle dropped the bombshell. He had had enough, Gascoigne had used up all his chances, he was not going to France.

Gascoigne was stunned. "There were tears in his eyes and he was very disappointed but he did not get abusive," Hoddle said. "It was not an en-

joyable job. With some players I had quite a long chat but with Paul it was a matter of two to three minutes."

"There was no point in discussing anything else with him, such as what he should do next, or to tell him that he still had a future with England. He was not going to take anything in. He shook my hand, then went to his room where he was consoled by some of his friends in the squad."

Gascoigne's first reaction was to telephone his estranged wife, Sheryl, whose Hertfordshire home he went to when he

arrived back in England on Sunday night. Then he is understood to have locked himself in his room.

Eventually, midfielder Paul Ince and goalkeeper David Seaman talked him into letting them in before they helped him out to the bus which was waiting to ferry him, and the other five dropped players, to the airport.

Hoddle, asked if Gascoigne's behaviour amounted to a tantrum, replied: "Not necessarily. He reacted as I expected."

Of the other five, the Man-

chester United full-back Phil Neville was the worst affected.

"He was also in tears," Hoddle said. "He was so cut up he was unable to speak." His brother, Gary, consoled him.

"It was a strange day and a difficult one for all concerned," Hoddle added. "But afterwards I walked into John Gorman's room and there, on the television, was a news report about an earthquake in Afghanistan in which thousands of people had been killed. It put everything into perspective."

Inside

Ray Wilkins

Pat Nevin

"Gascoigne looked short of full fitness and was unable to do the things that make him the player he is. He is a sublime talent and we all wish we were as gifted, but if you are less than fully fit then not even an individual with Gascoigne's ability can go past people or irritate those defence-splitting passes."

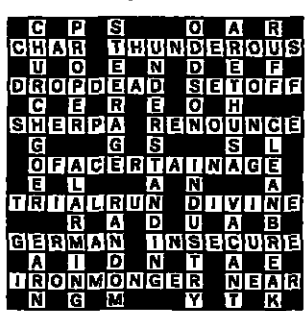
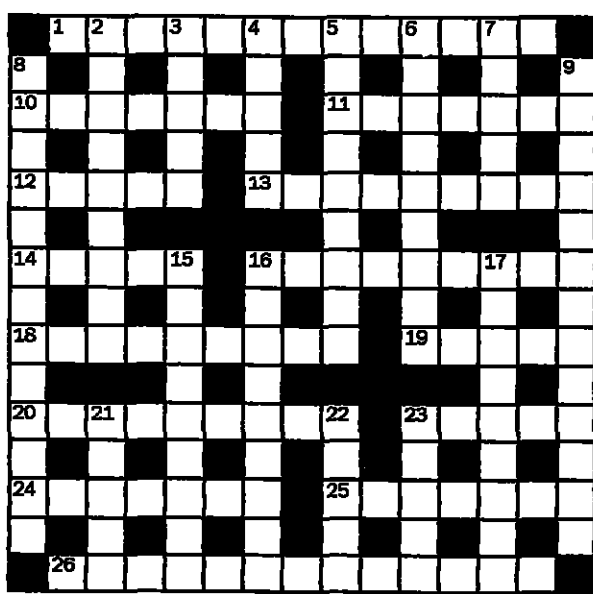
Pat Nevin and Ray Wilkins, who will be joining The Independent's team at the World Cup, analyse Paul Gascoigne's omission, page 30

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No 3626, Tuesday 2 June

By Andrew

Monday's Solution



ACROSS

- Monks at the bar? (8-2-3)
- Eat this? (4,3)
- Subdue to conceal material of case? (7)
- Son, say, is to take legal action (5)
- Go beyond inclination about misuse of canes (9)
- As run down as a US estate? (5)
- Something liable to go off kept in thin silk (9)
- A salute to secure people's compliance (9)
- After day on ice one needs a pint? (5)
- Ticks Leon off for being thick (5-4)
- Getting about in animal compound to perform

DOWN

- avian routine (5)
- Traitor's method is a bit ropey (7)
- Keep us in shame (7)
- Using a sheet to upset the neighbourhood (7,6)
- Back to keep essential point right for official (9)
- Article about Information Technology which is what the rector used to receive (5)
- Woman goes to Connecticut to put on a performance (5)
- Sign meant car's crashed (9)
- Independent retailer has intelligence to put up with (4-5)

- Burning a bit of wood to get energy (5)
- Noel's heart could be in seasonal greeting (9,4)
- What sailors could use to find place of naval casualties? (4,9)
- You'd have to be a consumer to benefit from this study (9)
- Vegetable one found in lush Scots mountain (5,4)
- Wandering one shocked by Tintern Abbey's leader (9)
- Unfashionable party's best (5)
- Discrimination set square in gallery (5)
- Hypothesise positive item (5)

Kournikova exits as she fails to get break

Tennis

By John Roberts
in Paris

TO pee, or not to pee. That was the question as the French Open turned into a bathroom break yesterday. Lavatory breaks became a major issue dividing athletes and administrators, or at least one bathroom break denied to Anna Kournikova.

The 16-year-old Russian was defeated by Jana Novotna, 6-7, 6-3, 6-3, in a match delayed overnight with the Czech No 3 seed leading 4-2 in the final set. Novotna required only 14 minutes to complete a victory which took her into a quarter-final meeting with Monica Seles today.

For Kournikova, that was the least of the story. She still could not understand why she had been refused permission to go to the bathroom after making an unsuccessful appeal against bad light during a changeover at 1-4 the night before.

"It was the first time ever in a match that I had to go to the bathroom, so it was something very new for me," Kournikova said. "In the rule book you can see that a player has a right to take a bathroom break twice. It doesn't matter if it's in the middle of the point. Even when you come on the court and start warming up, you can go to the bathroom. It doesn't matter if it's after one minute or two hours. We played an hour and 40-something minutes."

The International Tennis Federation's rules state that, "A

bathroom break may be taken when necessary, but preferably at the end of a game or on a changeover. The break may not exceed five minutes, except when taken on a changeover, in which case the player receives an additional 90 seconds."

A spokesman for the Women's Tennis Association Tour said the rule depended on the referee's interpretation of "necessary", and in this case the referee did not consider it was necessary for Kournikova to go to the bathroom. "The request was denied as the change of ends was almost over. Tournament officials felt the toilet break should have been requested at the beginning of the change of ends."

Asked during her press conference if she really needed to go to the bathroom or was trying to stall until the light got darker, Kournikova said, "No. Like I said, it was the first time ever I had to go to the bathroom. I think I have a right to go to the bathroom. It doesn't matter what I was doing."

Novotna took a pragmatic view. "If the rules are there and you know how to use them, why not?" she said. "You have to do everything you can to win the match. If you can use the rules at the right time, that's the way tennis now is."

Kournikova, visibly upset, was able to win her service game for 2-4, at which point Novotna successfully appealed against the light. The decision was taken by the assistant referee, Bruno Rebeuh, the offi-

cial who famously came into conflict with Jeff Tarango and his wife, Benedicte, while umpiring at Wimbledon in 1995.

Although John Frame, of Britain, umpired the Novotna-Kournikova match, Rebeuh was at the court-side. Another fourth round match, between Iva Majoli, the bolder, and Conchita Martinez, had already been halted at one set all (Majoli won yesterday, 7-6, 6-7, 6-3).

"I think the match with Majoli and Martinez was called off nearly an hour before our match finished," Kournikova said. "We finished at 9.28. It was pretty dark, but they said it was darker over there, a hundred yards away."

Asked if she had visited the bathroom after her match, Kournikova said, "No, I was holding it until today. Now, every time I go to the bathroom, I should ask the WTA, 'Can I go to the bathroom, please?'"

Kournikova spent part of her afternoon sitting beside the great Brazilian footballer Ronaldo watching her Russian compatriot Marat Safin play Cedric Pioline, last year's runner-up at Wimbledon. Pioline started a French frenzy of delight by winning, 7-5, 4-6, 6-7, 6-4, 6-4. He will now play Hicham Arazi, of Morocco.

Arazi advanced with 6-2, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 win against Spain's Alberto Berasategui. Filip Dewulf, of Belgium, a semi-finalist last year, beat Spain's Francisco Clavet, 7-5, 6-3, 6-1 while Alex Corretja, the No 14 seed, defeated Australia's Jason Stoltenberg, 6-4, 6-4, 6-3.

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